

## Dig In!

- Written by Cindy Jenson-Elliott
- Illustrated by Mary Peterson
- Beach Lane Books, 2016

Large illustrations and simple text take children on a journey through the underground world of rocks, worms, bugs, and more. Children discuss living and non-living things and make connections to what they have seen underground.

### Vocabulary

- squish: to squeeze something wet

## The Busy Tree

- Written by Jennifer Ward
- Illustrated by Lisa Falkenstern
- Two Lions, 2009

Told from the point of view of an old oak tree, this picture book introduces readers to animals that make the tree a home. Illustrations of owls, squirrels, birds, moths, and more show children how different animals use trees for shelter, food, and raising their babies. They discuss how animals are architects of different kinds of home structures, and they identify rhyming words in the book.

### Vocabulary

- scurry: to move quickly
- hollow: a hole in a tree trunk where an animal lives

## A Nest Is Noisy

- Written by Dianna Hutts Aston
- Illustrated by Sylvia Long
- Chronicle Books, 2017

With brief poetic text and longer fact-filled captions, everyone has something to learn from this unique book about animals' nests! Children may know that birds make nests, but did they know bees, alligators, sea turtles, and orangutans do too? Children discuss how these animals use and create nests differently and practice sharing what else they wonder about nest building animals.

### Vocabulary

- peculiar: unusual, strange, or interesting

## Wonderful Worms

- Written by Linda Glaser
- Illustrated by Loretta Krupinski
- Millbrook Press, 1992

This informational book is a celebration of one underground architect: the worm. Detailing the life of a worm – from how they eat and dig, to how they help create nutrient-rich soil – this book invites children to consider how animals help take care of the environment. Children also discuss the similarities and differences between worms and people.

### Vocabulary

- airy: more space or room
- rich: nourishing or healthy (soil)

## Walter's Wonderful Web

- Written and illustrated by Tim Hopgood
- Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016

Walter the spider has a problem: his webs always turn out wobbly and blow away in the wind. But Walter is determined to make a web that holds its place. This book about perseverance provides a review of two-dimensional shapes. It helps build connections between children's knowledge of constructing buildings and animal habitats. Children revisit the importance of trying again and the Power of 3 as Walter rebuilds his perfect web.

### Vocabulary

- determined: focused on what to do

## Listen to Our World

- Written by Bill Martin, Jr. and Michael Sampson
- Illustrated by Melissa Sweet
- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2016

This book celebrates the diversity of habitats around the world. We see parrots, panda bears, Gila monsters, eagles, and more as each two-page spread focuses on a different animal in its unique habitat. Children hiss, and snap, and growl along with the animals. Children also practice making inferences and move like animals during read alouds.

### Vocabulary

- oozy: slimy, gooey

## underGROUND

- Written and Illustrated by Denise Fleming
- Beach Lane Books, 2012

This rhyming book invites children to learn more about animals that eat, sleep, and protect their babies underground. Children discuss why animals may need to live underground and observe various animal home structures. A Creature Identification page in the back of the book encourages children to further investigate the diverse world of underground animals.

### Vocabulary

- burrow: an underground hole that animals live in

## Bird Builds a Nest

- Written by Martin Jenkins
- Illustrated by Richard Jones
- Candlewick Press, 2018

Bird eats a tasty worm for breakfast, then gets to work building a nest. This simple book showing how and why a mother bird builds a nest offers an introduction to the science of forces. After discussing how this animal architect takes strategic steps to build a sturdy yet cozy structure in nature, children begin a new design challenge and create their own bird nests.

### Vocabulary

- fetch: to go get

## Thank You, Earth

- Written and photographed by April Pulley Sayre
- Greenwillow Books, 2018

This book, written as a love letter to our planet, highlights the diversity of Earth's plants, animals, water, land, and sky. Matching vocabulary and poetic phrasing with photographs, this book encourages children to practice gratitude and to consider how the planet provides a home for all living things.

### Vocabulary

- towering: taller than everything around it