



POKE & LOOK LEARNING BOOKS

INTRODUCTION

Dear Teacher,

All Children are curious about the world around them. **Poke & Look Learning Books** open the door to nonfiction subjects in a way that is both informative and fun. With large, durable, board books pages, spiral bindings and intriguing die-cut openings, these books beg to be opened.

THEMES

Poke & Look Learning Books are perfect learning tools, in the home or in the classroom. To enable you and your class to get the most out of them, we offer you this *Teacher's Guide*, which contains helpful suggestions for using each book:

Look Inside a Tree

Look Inside the Ocean

Look Inside a Farm

Look Inside a Rainforest

Look Inside an Airplane

Look How a Baby Grows

Look Inside a House

Look Inside Your Brain

Look Inside Your Body

Look Inside a Ship

Look Inside a Car

Look Inside the Earth

Let's Look at Dinosaurs

ACTIVITIES

Look Inside a Tree

Explains in a simple manner the "workings" of a tree from its roots to its leaves and the importance of trees to animals and people.

Using the Book:

Before you read, ask children to help you draw a tree by naming its different parts. Ask what animals might live in this tree, and what might grow on the tree besides leaves - and put these in your tree picture. You might show pictures of different kinds of trees.

Take a walk around your neighborhood to identify the variety of trees there. Upon returning to the classroom, write a group story, including all the things children noticed about trees on their "tree walk" - animals in the trees, the feel of the bark, the shapes and colors of the leaves, and so on. Torn-paper tree collages are fun to make. Have children tear long pieces of brown construction paper for the trunk and branches, smaller pieces of green for the leaves, and other pieces limited only by their own imaginations. No two trees will look the same!

Look Inside the Ocean

Who lives among the rocks, wanders in the seaweed and hides in the sand deep in the ocean? Lots of fascinating animals and plants - treasures that we must understand and protect.

Using the Book:

Before you read, ask children to think of plants and animals that live in the ocean. The book shows some amazing adaptive features. Can your class think of ways other animals have adapted to their environments (a tiger's stripes, a polar bear's fur)? Discuss why the ocean is so important to us and why we must take care of it.

If possible, visit a local aquarium for a close-up look at ocean-dwelling flora and fauna. Make ocean pictures. Have children draw real or imaginary sea creatures with crayons. Then have them make a wavy fingerpainting. The painting can be pressed over the drawing, then lifted off - and the sea creatures are swimming in water!

Look Inside a Farm

A simple, colorful, and informative introduction to the farm - who lives there, what grows there, and why farms are important places, all around the world.

Using the Book:

Before you read, ask children what a farm is for, and what people, animals and plants they might see on a farm. Get into the farm spirit by singing familiar farm songs, with lots of animal sounds to enjoy.

Bring in a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, both familiar and unfamiliar, to slice up and taste. (Examples: peas in the pod, carrots, apples, tomatoes, zucchini, broccoli, red peppers, spinach, potatoes, stringbeans.) Talk about how each grew on a farm before finally being delivered to the store for us to buy and eat. You may find that children are willing to sample foods they might not otherwise choose, because of the shared "picnic!". Leftover potatoes, carrots, zucchini (etc) can be sliced into chunks, then dipped in paint and used to make interesting print designs.

Look Inside a Rainforest

This colorful book tells about plants and animals of the rainforest and other forests, and gives a basic idea of their ecology and geography.

Using the Book:

Before you read, ask children to imagine they are walking in a deep forest or rainforest. Encourage use of the senses - what do you hear? see? feel? smell? The book explains that more than half of the species of plants and animals on earth live in the Amazon rainforest, and important medicines are made from plants found there. Ask what might happen to these animals and plants if forests start to disappear because we cut them down or don't take care of them.

Visit a zoo or museum with a man-made forest or rainforest environment.

Look Inside an Airplane

The history and mystery, mechanics and dynamics of flight are presented here in easy-to-understand terms, along with information about the people who make flight safe and enjoyable.

Using the Book:

Before you read, ask children to tell about any plane trips they have taken. Talk about other things that fly - hot air balloon, helicopter, dirigible, glider, rocket, bird, bat, insect.

Children can design and color their own flying machines. Have on hand a copy of **Zoom!** (Grosset & Dunlap, 1991, \$7.95), an inexpensive paper airplane craft book, which comes with plenty of paper and easy directions for making a variety of interesting airplane designs. The finished airplanes can be taken out to the playground and tested. Which ones fly best?

Look How a Baby Grows

A broad answer to the question, *Where do babies come from?*, full of just enough information to satisfy young minds about genetic likenesses and differences, twins, how different animals are born, how a baby grows inside, changes in the mother and what to expect when a baby is born.

Using the Book:

Before you read, ask children if they know where they were before they were born. During storytime, invite sharing of experiences; children will love telling about their own birth, the birth of a sibling, the birth of kittens or puppies - or guppies!

A parent may be willing to bring in a baby brother or sister for "show and tell," and help to answer children's questions about care of a baby.

Look Inside a House

Shows how a house is built - laying the foundation, erecting the walls, putting in pipes, wiring, and insulation, and finally decorating to make the house pretty and comfortable for people.

Using the Book:

Before you read, invite discussion of the different kinds of houses people live in, and how those houses might have been built. Discuss equipment that might have been needed (crane, dump truck, diggers), materials (stone, brick, wood, cement), and so on.

Animals have houses too. Many are built by the animals themselves. Show pictures of a bird nest, a chimpanzee nest, a beaver dam, a beehive, an ant hill, a spider web. Explain how each animal constructs its house, and encourage children to look for some of these special places in their own backyard or neighborhood.

Look Inside Your Brain

What makes you laugh at a funny joke? What makes your heart beat? Your brain! Your brain controls everything your body does, and this book explains it all in simple terms.

Using the Book:

Before you read, discuss with your class what they think the brain is for. List their answers. After reading the book, ask the same question, and point out all the things they have learned - with their brains!

Play a "brain game." Ask children to identify different fruits with their eyes closed to understand how the brain gets messages through the senses of taste, smell and touch.

Look Inside Your Body

At first look at what's inside the human body, and how all our parts work together to enable us to eat, breathe, move and sense the world around us.

Using the Book:

Before you read, let children name parts of the body that we can see on the outside. What's inside? How do we know? Why is it important to know what's inside us?

With a toy stethoscope, children can listen to their heart and lungs. Ask children to check triceps as they lift something heavy, to feel their ribs and other bones, to watch what happens to their abdomens as they breathe in and out.

Look Inside a Ship

Tells what ships are made of, how they move, who works on them, where they go, and what they carry.

Using the Book:

Before you read, ask children to think of different kinds of water transport - from rowboat to submarine.

Take an imaginary cruise aboard a ship, encouraging children to load the cargo, hoist the sail, blow the whistle, swab the deck, start the engines, steer away from icebergs, look for land and so on. Do a simple science experiment to find out what floats and what does not float. Begin a unit on transportation. Children could cut out pictures of flying, floating and rolling vehicles to glue on a mural, with water at the bottom, and land, air and space above it.

Look Inside a Car

Cars have come a long way since the first "horseless carriages". This book explains what the first cars were like, then tells how cars work today. Topics include car parts, engine mechanics, driving, rules of the road and car racing too.

Using the Book:

Before you read, discuss with your class how people got around before cars were invented. Help children understand how this one amazing invention has affected so many aspects of our lives.

The book has a section on rules of the road - a good place to talk about children's safety in the streets. Discuss the meaning of the various signs and signals in the neighborhood and what children should expect from drivers, or do themselves, when crossing streets.

Look Inside the Earth

Here is a look not only inside the earth, but also outside and all around it! This book covers what the earth is made of, its natural resources, force systems such as gravity, weather, earthquakes and volcanoes, the solar system, and why we must preserve our planet.

Using the Book:

Before you read, you might show children a globe and find the spot on it where you live.

Keep recycling bins in the classroom so children become accustomed to saving used and leftover materials. Each person can help the earth in his own way! Set an example by creatively re-using milk containers as planters, old paper for notes and so on.

Let's Look at Dinosaurs

A fascinating first look at these amazing prehistoric creatures. How do we know they existed? What did they look like and eat? Why are there no dinosaurs today?

Using the Book:

Before you read, let children tell you what they know about dinosaurs. Explain that dinosaurs were real animals that lived on the earth before people. You might encourage discussion of "real" and "make-believe."

Ask children to make their favorite dinosaurs out of clay and place them creatively in a class "Dinosaur Land" spread out on a table.

Find more teaching guides and tips at: <http://us.penguinroup.com/youngreaders>.