



Really Cool True Books

Ablow, Gail. [**A Horse in the House and Other Strange But True Animal Stories**](#)

From a horse that lived in a house while its owners lived next door to an official spying cat wired for sound, this amazing collection of real-life stories, drawn from newspapers around the world, sheds new light on creatures big and small! Ages 6–10 (J 590 ABL)

Aronson, Marc. [**For Boys Only: The Biggest, Baddest Book Ever**](#)

A collection of exciting trivia for boys, including information on supercars, pizza statistics and nature's deadliest poisons, and provides tips on such subjects as fighting sharks, creating codes and escaping. Ages 7–12 (J 031.02 ARO)

Baker, Nick. [**Bug Zoo**](#)

This book shows children how to turn backyard bugs into fascinating pets and create a "zoo" of insects, spiders, worms and other common creepy-crawlies. It includes instructions for building an ant farm, spider house, bee box, wormery and more. Ages 5–10 (J 595.7 BAK)

Bishop, Nic. [**Lizards**](#)

This book presents both basic information and fun, quirky facts about the appearance, habits, and life cycle of these amazing reptiles. Ages 4–10 (J 597.95 BIS)

Borgenicht, David. [**The Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook: Gross Junior Edition**](#)

Provides tips on surviving disgusting and dangerous situations, including avoiding bird feces, handling a fly infestation, surviving the school bathroom, and escaping a skunk. Ages 9-12 (J 001.9 BOR)

Bourke, Anthony. [**Christian the Lion: Based on the Amazing and Heartwarming True Story**](#)

Describes the life of the lion who lived in a London flat with his owners as a cub, was flown to Kenya to live in his natural environment and warmly welcomed his former owners when they returned to visit him a year later. Ages 8–11 (J 599.757 BOU)

Bryan, Kim (et al.). [**Ask Me Anything: Every Fact You Ever Wanted to Know**](#)

A collection of questions and answers, lists, and trivia offers facts in an ultra-accessible format, organized into such categories as space, dinosaurs, transportation, and history. Ages 10 and up (J 031.02 ASK)

Donovan, Sandra. [**Does it Really Take Seven years to Digest Swallowed Gum? : And Other Questions You've Always Wanted to Ask**](#)

Investigates common sayings, such as whether an apple a day really does keep the doctor away and whether it really does take seven years to digest swallowed gum, considering which statements are right, which are wrong and which ones still stump scientists. Ages 9–12 (J 610 DON)

Earnest, Peter. [**The Real Spy's Guide to Becoming a Spy**](#)

This is the official handbook for anyone who dreams of one day becoming a spy and working in the intelligence field, written by the founding executive director of the International Spy Museum, who is also a former operative in the CIA's Clandestine Service. Ages 8 – 12 (J 327.12 EAR)



Heos, Bridget. [What to Expect When You're Expecting Larvae](#)

A spoof on the popular parenting books, this answers the burning questions of insect parents-to-be and is chock full of fascinating (and sometimes disgusting) facts that are sure to grab human readers' interest. Ages 8–11 (J 595.7 HEO)

Jenkins, Steve. [Actual Size](#)

Discusses and gives examples of the size and weight of various animals and parts of animals. Some of the illustrations display the entire animal at actual scale while others can only feature what fits on the page (e.g., an African elephant's foot). Ages 5–10 (J 591 JEN)

Jenkins, Steve. [Never Smile at a Monkey: and 17 Other Important Things to Remember](#)

Find out what you should never do if you encounter one of the dangerous animals described. Ages 5–9 (J591.5 JEN)

Keenan, Sheila. [Animals in the House: A History of Pets and People](#)

Tells the story of pets through the ages and the people who kept them, including famous pets and pet owners. Ages 8–12 (J 636.088 KEE)

Kent, Peter. [Peter Kent's City Across Time: From the Stone Age to the Distant Future](#)

An introduction to urban archaeology that features cross-sections of the same location in an imaginary European city from the Stone Age to the 21st century. Changes in daily life aboveground are featured as well as what happens in the subterranean realm. As one civilization displaces another, skeletons, artifacts, and garbage form layer upon layer of an unwritten record. Ages 8–12 (J 307.7609 KEN)

Lauren, Jill. [That's Like Me: Stories About Amazing People with Learning Differences](#)

Meet the fifteen kids and adults profiled in this collection of first-person accounts of successful people who learn differently. Whether it was reading, math, writing, or speech problems, each person shares his or her inspiring story of facing the challenge of school, while pursuing important goals. Ages 8–12 (J 920 LAU)

Macaulay, David. [The Way We Work: Getting to Know the Amazing Human Body](#)

Explores the complex inner workings of the human body in a visual study of anatomy and physiology that ranges from the cells that form the building blocks of the body, to the individual organs and systems and how they function. Ages 10 and up (J 612 MAC)

Markle, Sandra. [Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories](#)

Presents true stories of animals helping humans, including animals trained to assist people with disabilities and pets that saved their families in life-threatening situations. Ages 8–12 (J 636.088 MAR)

Marrin, Albert. [Years of Dust: The Story of the Dust Bowl](#)

Before global warming, there was dust. In the 1930s, dangerous black storms swept through the Great Plains. Created by drought and reckless farming, these lethal storms were part of an environmental, economic, and human catastrophe that changed the course of American history. Ages 9 and up (J 978 MAR)



McCarthy, Meghan. [Pop: The Invention of Bubblegum](#)

Full of fun historical facts, this book is the true story of how bubble gum was invented.

Ages 4–8 (J 664 MCC)

Montgomery, Sy. [Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot](#)

On remote Codfish Island off the southern coast of New Zealand live the last 91 kakapo parrots on earth. Originally this bird numbered in the millions before humans brought predators to the islands. Now on the isolated island refuge, a team of scientists is trying to restore the kakapo population. Ages 9–13 (J 578.68 MON)

Myron, Vicki. [Dewey the Library Cat: A True Story](#)

Abandoned in a library book drop slot in the dead of winter, this remarkable kitten miraculously endured the coldest night of the year. Dewey Readmore Books, as he became known, quickly embraced his home inside Spencer's public library, charming the struggling small town's library-goers, young and old. As word spread, the library cat gained worldwide fame as a symbol of hope and proof positive that one small cat could change a town, one reader at a time. Ages 8-12 (J MYR)

National Geographic. [Weird But True: 300 Outrageous Facts](#)

A collection of quirky but true fun facts are combined with lively art, in a browsable reference divided into such categories as Chills and Thrills, Animals Superpowers, Mini and Mega, Eat or Be Eaten and more. Ages 8–12 (J 031.02 WEI)

O'Brien, Ann Sibley and Perry Edmond O'Brien. [After Gandhi: One Hundred Years of Nonviolent Resistance](#)

Explores Gandhi's work and legacy through fifteen profiles of activists who chose nonviolent resistance as the path to change, focusing on individuals who were in direct physical danger and chose to respond with nonviolence. Ages 11-14 (J 303.61 OBR)

Rinaldo, Denise. [White House Q & A](#)

More than 200 years old, the White House is no ordinary house. The site of many significant moments in American history, this is certainly a home of great importance. Get an insider's tour of the president's mansion, with the fun facts, stories, and photos. Ages 5–10 (J 917.532 WHI)

Roberts, David and Jeremy Leslie. [Pick Me Up: Stuff You Need to Know](#)

Inspired by hyperlink elements from the Internet, this "unencyclopedia" is a one-volume crash course in practically everything. Use it as a jumping-off point for further research or a boredom-busting browse: either way it delivers history, nature, geography, science and culture in a kid-friendly book format. Ages 8–14 (J 031 ROB)

Rompella, Natalie. [Famous Firsts: The Trendsetters, Groundbreakers and Risk-Takers who Got America Moving!](#)

Profiles of a vast array of adventurous Americans who invented such activities as snowboarding, BMX, water skiing, and cheerleading, revealing how they came up with their innovative ideas, which eventually became wildly popular international sports. Ages 8-12 (J 796.092 ROM)



Scott, Carey. [**Dangerous Dinosaurs**](#)

Examines facts about dinosaurs including why some plant-eating dinosaurs grew so large, how they used teeth, claws, spikes, and tail clubs in their fight for survival, and why the dinosaurs died out and what happened afterwards. Ages 8–12 (J567.9 SCO)

Sloan, Chris. [**Mummies: Dried, Tanned, Sealed, Drained, Frozen, Embalmed, Stuffed, Wrapped, and Smoked... and We're Dead Serious**](#)

This vividly illustrated tour of some of history's most significant mummy discoveries reveals the science behind mummification and what has been determined about each mummy's life and death. Freaky photos and intriguing stories will keep you glued to every page. Ages 8–12 (J 393.3 SLO)

Smith, David J. [**If America Were a Village: A Book About the People of the United States**](#)

By narrowing down the United States' population to a village of one hundred people, the author offers up statistics about nationalities, families, religion, occupations, wealth, health, age, and energy use. Ages 8–12 (J 304.6 SMI)

Smith, Miranda. [**Ancient Egypt**](#)

Travel back in time to the center of a mighty civilization that still fascinates the world. Find out more about the Egyptians – pharaohs and priests, farmers and scribes – and the royal intrigues, religious beliefs and day-to-day dramas of life in ancient Egypt. Take a tour of a splendid palace, a bustling river port, an embalmer's chamber and of course the awesome Great Pyramid. Ages 8–12 (J 932 SMI)

Sylver, Adrienne. [**Hot Diggity Dog: The History of the Hot Dog**](#)

We ate them on the way to the moon and served them to the king of England. We name a Hot Dog-Eating Champ! Filled with hilarious illustrations and amazing "food" facts, this kid-friendly, globe spanning history of our favorite fast-food meal offers unique insight into America's multicultural heritage. From a hobo's franks-and-beans to astronaut food, there's more to the wiener--and what's for dinner--than you think. Ages 5–8 (J 641.36 SYL)

Thimmish, Catherine. [**Friends: True Stories of Extraordinary Animal Friendships**](#)

This book offers a photo exploration of unlikely animal friendships, which not only gives readers insight into animals but challenges preconceived notions about compatibility. Ages 5–8 (J 591.5 THI)

Wojahn, Rebecca. [**An Australian Outback Food Chain: A Who-Eats-What Adventure**](#)

Describes food chains in the tundra, beginning with carnivores, such as a falcon or a polar bear, and ending with decomposers. Ages 8–12 (J 577.54 WOJ)



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