BRILLIANT non-fiction books for children and young people



Eye opening facts, mind-blowing information, incredible stories about real life, brilliant tips to help us master new skills - you'll find all these and more in this jam-packed list of amazing non-fiction books for children and young people, produced as part of the Federation of Children's Book Groups' celebration of National Non-Fiction November 2016.

This dazzlingly varied list was drawn up with the input of child members of the FCBG, a school librarian, an independent bookseller and a fact-hungry monster (yes, really!). The goal was to celebrate the rich diversity of nonfiction books, with a special focus on books to read for pleasure, leisure and personal interest. We hope this list will give you some great ideas about books to inspire, excite and feed curious brains!



100 Facts Around Town by Clive Gifford, illustrated by Brendan Kearney. Lift the flaps to find secret histories, gob-smacking records and inspiring inventions around town. Egmont. ISBN: 9781405271714.



Actual Size by Steve Jenkins. Just how big is a crocodile? What about a tiger, or the world's largest spider? This visually stunning book shows animals both large and small at their actual size. Frances Lincoln. ISBN: 9781847806338.



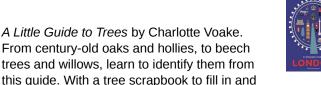
23 Ways to be an Eco Hero by Isabel Thomas and Chris Andrews. This book is packed full of step-by-step projects for crafty kids eager to reuse, recycle, and do their bit for the environment. QED. ISBN: 9781784933418.



Alpha, Bravo, Charlie: The Complete Book of Nautical Codes by Sara Gillingham and Meagan Bennett. This extraordinary visual reference is an introduction to maritime communication through nautical flags, morse code and semaphore signalling. Phaidon Press. ISBN: 9780714871257.



365 Things to Make and Do by Fiona Watt. An amazing activity book containing an activity for every day of the year! Usborne. ISBN: 9780746087923.





An Infographic Guide to: London by Simon Holland. This vibrant and bold pocket-sized book through the UK's capital city. Hachette. ISBN: 9780750299541.



A Rock is Lively by Dianna Hutts Aston and Sylvia Long. A gorgeous and informative introduction to the fascinating world of rocks. Chronicle Books. ISBN: 9781452145556.

keep. Eden Children's Books. ISBN: 9781903919828.



Archie's War by Marcia Williams. This funny, touching and accessible 'diary' gives a unique insight into what life was life for a child during the First World War. Walker. ISBN: 9781406352689.



A Street Through Time by Steve Noon. Take a 12,000-year walk through history following the changes which might have taken place on a street just like one you walk down today. DK Children, ISBN: 9781409376446.



Arnold's Extraordinary Art Museum by Catherine Ingram, illustrated by Jim Stoten. A hilarious comic strip adventure, featuring real - and imaginary - works of art. Laurence King. ISBN: 9781780678627.



Around the World with the Ingreedies: A Taste Adventure by Zoe Bather, Joe Sharpe and Chris Dickason. This book draws on the culture, history, science and geography behind our food and serves it up as a visual feast of illustrations, maps and recipes. Laurence King. ISBN: 9781780678290.



Discover... The Roman Empire by Isabel Greenberg and Imogen Greenberg. The Roman Empire, gladiators, the Roman Army and more are explored through comic strips in this engaging book. Frances Lincoln. ISBN: 9781847808264.



Atlas of Adventures: A collection of natural wonders, exciting experiences and fun festivities from the four corners of the globe by Lucy Letherland. Follow one boy and one girl as they travel to over 30 destinations. Wide-Eyed Editions. ISBN: 9781847805850.



DK Braille Animals. Designed especially for the young braille reader and fully endorsed by the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), this tactile reference book features over 30 pages of entries on a fascinating selection of creatures. DK Children. ISBN: 9780241228395.



Bee: Nature's Tiny Miracle by Britta Teckentrup and Patricia Hegarty. Follow a miraculous little bee and its journey from flower to flower in this delightful peep-through picture book. Little Tiger Kids. ISBN: 9781848692886.



Do Igloos have loos? by Mitchell Symons. Ever wondered why slugs are so slimy or whether igloos have loos? Mitchell Symons knows the answers . . . and now you will too! Puffin. ISBN: 9781849410359.



Big Questions From Little People . . . Answered By Some Very Big People by Gemma Elwin Harris. Over 100 real questions from children with answers provided by some of our bestloved and most knowledgeable experts. Faber. ISBN: 9780571288519



Do Nice, Be Kind, Spread Happy: Acts of Kindness for Kids by Bernadette Russell. This book is jam-packed with awesome activities for spreading joy and kindness throughout the land, with an extra helping of magic and mischief. Ivy Press. ISBN: 9781782401056.



Blame My Brain: The Amazing Teenage Brain Revealed by Nicola Morgan. An examination of the ups and downs of the teenage brain. Walker. ISBN: 9781406346930.



Don't Eat This Book by David Sinden and Nikalas Catlow. This antidote to activity books is guaranteed to enthral as imagination and creativity are unleashed in the most interesting and unexpected ways. Red Fox. ISBN: 9781849417785.



Cars Trains Ships and Planes. This kid's encyclopedia is the fastest route to learning about the entire history of all modern modes of transportation, from the first wheel to the latest hybrids. DK Children. ISBN: 9781409348504.



Earthly Treasure by Jennie Maizels and Kate Petty. This is a fascinating and interactive guide to the Earth's treasures, with amazing pop-ups and flaps. Eden Children's Books. ISBN: 9781905811021.



Children's Book of Music. An encyclopedia with fun, try-it-yourself activities and an interactive CD which takes children on the ultimate musical journey. DK Children. ISBN: 9781405356855.



Encyclopedia Prehistorica Dinosaurs by Matthew Reinhart and Robert Sabuda. This is an awe-inspiring, pop-up packed tribute to the world's most celebrated extinct animals and their 180-million-year reign of our planet. Walker. ISBN: 9780744586909.



Corpse Talk: Season 1 by Adam Murphy. Comic strip interviews with some of history's most famous, infamous and downright incredible men and women. David Fickling Books. ISBN: 9781910200018.



Explore!: The most dangerous journeys of all time by Deborah Kespert. Brimming with tales of heroism and useful survival tips this book highlights the intrepid journeys and discoveries of famous trailblazers. Thames and Hudson. ISBN: 9780500292303.



Fantastically Great Women Who Changed The World by Kate Pankhurst. Bursting full of beautiful illustrations and astounding facts, this book is the perfect introduction to just a few of the most incredible women who helped shaped the world we live in. Bloomsbury. ISBN: 9781408876985.



How Machines Work by David Macaulay. Follow the mad antics of Sloth and his sidekick Sengi as they try to break out of the zoo with the help of levers, pulleys, screws, inclined planes, wedges and wheels. DK Children. ISBN: 9780241203385.



Fluttering Minibeast Adventures by Jess French, illustrated by Jonathan Woodward. Find out all about life cycles, how to identify bugs and what makes each one special. Egmont. ISBN: 9781405277556.



How to Make Awesome Comics by Neill Cameron. Join Professor Panels and Art Monkey as they show you everything you need to know to make your very own AWESOME comics! David Fickling Books. ISBN: 9781910200032.



Football School: Where Football Explains the World by Alex Bellos and Ben Lyttleton, illustrated by Spike Gerrell. Packed with awesome true stories, real science and fascinating facts about football, this book will also make you laugh loads. Walker. ISBN: 9781406367249.



How we Make Stuff by Christiane Dorion, illustrated by Beverley Young. An engaging exploration of the way we use Earth's natural resources, featuring pop-ups, pull-tabs and booklets. Templar. ISBN: 9781848777217.



Gravity by Jason Chin. An unusual, innovative, and beautiful book, which introduces young readers to this fundamental force, taking a complex subject and making it understandable. Andersen, ISBN: 9781783441976.



I (Dont) Like Snakes by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Luciano Lozano. A bold, bright and fascinating exploration of one of the world's most feared creatures – the snake! Walker. ISBN: 9781406365689.



Greek Gazette by Fergus Fleming. A fresh and lively look at Ancient Greek history, written in the style of a tabloid newspaper. Usborne. ISBN: 9781474903318.



I Explore The Airport by Mike Goldsmith and Kate Daubney. Follow a family as they travel through the airport, checking in, going through security, taking off, landing, and locating their luggage. Egmont. ISBN: 9781405268349.



Guinness World Records 2017. Reflecting the ever changing world around us, the latest edition contains a variety of extraordinary, never before seen records across the year's hottest topics. Guinness World Records. ISBN: 9781910561331.



i-SPY At the seaside: What can you spot? i-SPY At the Seaside includes hundreds of buildings, sandy creations, boats, and animals to spot next time you visit the coast. Collins. ISBN: 9780008182748.



Handbook to Ghosts, Poltergeists, and Haunted Houses by Sean McCollum Ghosts . . . are they real spirits or just the stuff of scary stories? Raintree. ISBN: 9781474724050.



If the World Were a Village by David J. Smith and Shelagh Armstrong. A beautiful and unique book which explains facts about the world's population in a simple and fascinating way. Bloomsbury. ISBN: 9780713668803.



Hogwarts: A Cinematic Yearbook. Packed with fun activities and pictures from the eight Harry Potter films, including an 8-page fold-out Hogwarts Diary and full-page character posters. Scholastic. ISBN: 9781407173382.



It Can't Be True 2. Astounding facts and cutting-edge visuals which bring statistics to life! Can it really be true?! DK Children. ISBN: 9780241239001.



LEGO® Awesome Ideas. For everyone from beginners to accomplished builders, this book contains creative model ideas and visual tips and techniques to inspire new building to take place. DK Children. ISBN: 9780241182987.



My Book of Bike Activities by Catherine Bruzzone, Jo Moore and Anne Wilson. This activity book is packed full of creative doodles, puzzles, games, how-to guides for budding tricksters and fascinating facts about bikes throughout the ages. B Small. ISBN: 9781909767690.



Let's Talk About Where Babies Come From by Robie Harris and Michael Emberley. A clear, lively and funny information book about sex and reproduction. Walker. ISBN: 9781406357868.



National Theatre: All About Theatre. Learn from experts at the world-famous National Theatre about every aspect of stagecraft, and discover how plays are made. Walker. ISBN: 9781406358698.



Lost... In the Jungle of Doom by Tracey Turner, illustrated by Sarah Horne. An interactive, adventure-packed story in which the reader must choose their own path based on facts they've learned in order to survive. Bloomsbury. ISBN: 9781472907479.



Not For Parents: How to be a Dinosaur Hunter. This book will show you where and how to find dinosaur remains, ranging from bones and teeth to eggs and footprints. Lonely Planet. ISBN: 9781743219072.



Mad About Monkeys by Owen Davey. This book explores over 250 types of monkeys from the smallest Pygmy Marmoset to the largest Mandrill, as well as providing all the facts you wanted to know and more. Flying Eye Books. ISBN: 9781909263574.



Olympic Sport: The Whole Muscle-Flexing Story by Glenn Murphy. Find out everything you ever wanted to know about sports and games and what it is that makes athletes the best at what they do. Macmillan. ISBN: 9781447254683.



Maps by Aleksandra Mizielińska and Daniel Mizieliński A celebration of the world, from its immense mountains to its tiny insects, featuring fifty-two highly illustrated maps. Big Picture Press. ISBN: 9781848773011.



Poo: A Natural History of the Unmentionable by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Neal Layton. Find out what poo is good for, where it goes, what we can learn from it and lots more in this book. Walker. ISBN: 9781406356632.



Maths Adventure by Kjartan Poskitt, illustrated by Richard Watson. Lift the flaps and practise your maths skills on a jam-packed camping adventure holiday! Egmont. ISBN: 9781405276610.



Roald Dahl's Completely Revolting Recipes: A Collection of Delumptious Favourites by Roald Dahl and Quentin Blake. 50 recipes from glumptious Green Pea Soup to scrumdiddlyumptious Scrambled Dregs. Penguin. ISBN: 9780099724216.



Maya Angelou (Little People, Big Dreams) by Lisbeth Kaiser, illustrated by Leire Salaberria. An inspiring and informative little biography about an amazing actress, civil rights campaigner and writer. Frances Lincoln. ISBN: 9781847808905.



Savage Stone Age (Classic edition: Reloaded) by Terry Deary and Martin Brown. Find out about the truth of Stonehenge, nasty Neanderthals, awesome archaeologists and curious cave paintings. Scholastic. ISBN: 9781407165592.



My Big Barefoot Book of Wonderful Words by Sophie Fatus. This book immerses children in diverse, detailed scenes of daily life, followed by simple spreads of labelled illustrations to help with vocabulary building and word recognition. Barefoot Books. ISBN: 9781782850915.



Secrets of the Sea by Kate Baker, illustrated by Eleanor Taylor. Come on a journey, from the rock-pools along the shoreline, to the deepest, darkest depths of the ocean, to reveal an incredible and rarely seen world. Big Picture Press. ISBN: 9781783704347.



See Inside Your Body by Katie Daynes and Colin King. Fabulous flap book that reveals the inner workings of the human body. Usborne. ISBN: 9780746070055.



The Beatles by Mick Manning and Brita Granström. The amazing story of The Beatles with captions and strip pictures for fans of all ages. Frances Lincoln. ISBN: 9781847805225.



Shackleton's Journey by William Grill. A detailed visual narrative of Ernest Shackleton's extraordinary and historical expedition on the "Endurance". Flying Eye Books. ISBN: 9781909263109.



The Big Book of Bugs by Yuval Zommer and Barbara Taylor. A fact-filled book for young children about all kinds of creepy crawlies. Thames and Hudson. ISBN: 9780500650677.



Star Wars Absolutely Everything You Need To Know. Crammed with weird and wonderful Star Wars trivia, strange-but-true facts and fascinating ""Did you know?"" Q&As. DK Children. ISBN: 9780241183700.



The Book of Languages by Mick Webb The perfect introduction to finding out about the different languages that are used to communicate around the world. Hachette. ISBN: 9781445134277.



Staying safe online by Louise Stowell and Nancy Leschnikoff. This guide gives you tips and tools to take control and stay safe online. Usborne. ISBN: 9781409597810.



The Comedy, History and Tragedy of William Shakespeare by Anna Claybourne, illustrated by Adria Meserve. Award-winning, beautifully illustrated introduction to William Shakespeare, celebrating his life, his most famous plays and the time in which he lived. Hachette. ISBN: 9781445131887.



Stone Girl Bone Girl: The Story of Mary Anning of Lyme Regis by Laurence Anholt and Sheila Moxley. A picture book biography of probably the world's best-known fossil-hunter. Frances Lincoln. ISBN: 9781845077006.



Natural World: A Visual Compendium of Wonders From Nature by A. J. Wood, Mike Jolley, Mike and Owen Davey. A first introduction to the natural world that looks at the myriad ways in which plants and animals have adapted to give themselves the best chance of survival. Wide Eyed Editions. ISBN: 9781847807519.



StoryWorlds: Nature by Thomas Hegbrook. Delve into the natural world with this beautifully illustrated book of wordless nature stories. Little Tiger Press. ISBN: 9781848574809.



The Flea - The Amazing Story of Leo Messi by Michael Part. A biography of Barcelona FC legend Lionel Messi, from his first touch aged five in the streets of Rosario, Argentina, to his first goal on the Camp Nou pitch in Barcelona. John Blake. ISBN: 9781782199816.



Survivors of the Holocaust by Zane Whittingham and Ryan Jones. An extraordinary graphic novel that looks at the horrors of the Holocaust through the eyes of children and young people who lived through it. Hachette. ISBN: 9781445150444.



The Foolish King by Mark Price, illustrated by Martin Brown. Packed with interactive puzzles and games, and clear instructions and tips on how to improve your technique, this book tells the secret history of chess. David Fickling Books. ISBN: 9781910200391.



Take Away the A by Michaël Escoffier and Kris Di Giacomo. An irreverent exploration not only of letters in their alphabetic order, but also of how they form words and communicate ideas. Andersen. ISBN: 9781783443444.



The Great Big Book of Families by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Ros Asquith. A diverse look at families in all shapes, sizes, colours and combinations. Frances Lincoln. ISBN: 9781847805874.



The National Trust: Hysterical Historical Jokes and Facts by Tracey Turner, illustrated by Sarah Horne. Featuring kings and queens, medieval knights, Victorians and many more, this terrific compilation of jokes will have children roaring with laughter! Nosy Crow. ISBN: 9780857636195.



The Pebble in my Pocket: A History of Our Earth by Meredith Hooper, illustrated by Chris Coady This book tells the story of a pebble, from its origins in a fiery volcano 480 million years ago to a busy, modern landscape. Frances Lincoln. ISBN: 9781847807687.



The Roald Dahl Quiz Book by Richard Maher and Sylvia Bond. Over 300 questions and answers based on six of Dahl's best-loved titles. Puffin. ISBN: 9780141346687.



The Silly Book of Side-Splitting Stuff by Andy Seed, illustrated by Scott Garrett. This laughout-loud book is bursting with lists, facts, jokes and funny true stories all about silly people, silly animals, silly inventions, silly names and much more. Bloomsbury. ISBN: 9781408850794.



The Story of Life: A First Book about Evolution by Catherine Barr and Steve Williams, illustrated by Amy Husband. This is an exciting and dramatic story about how life began and developed on Planet Earth, written especially for younger children. Frances Lincoln. ISBN: 9781847804853.



The Usborne Official Astronaut's Handbook by Louie Stowell, illustrated by Roger Simo. A funny and fascinating how-to guide for budding astronauts, providing a crash course on what it takes to travel into space. Usborne. ISBN: 9781409590743.



The Usborne Outdoor Book by Alice James, Emily Bone and Briony May Smith. Inspiring ideas and activities for discovering and exploring outdoors, whether that's a city park, a beach, deep in the woods or even in a garden. Usborne. ISBN: 9781409599104.



The World Came To My Place Today by Jo Readman, illustrated by Ley Honor Roberts. The world really does come to visit George when his grandpa arrives, with a globe, to look after him and his sister for the day. Eden Children's Books. ISBN: 9781903919026.



The World-Famous Book of Magical Numbers by Sarah Goodreau. Prepare to be amazed by this fabulously clever lift-the-flap, pop-up, pull-out book about numbers. Big Picture Press. ISBN: 9781783704644.



The Worst Children's Jobs in History by Tony Robinson and Mike Phillips. This book tells the stories of all the children whose work fed the nation, kept trains running, and put clothes on everyone's backs, over the last few hundred years of Britain's history. Macmillan. ISBN: 9781509841950.



This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson. A funny and pertinent book about being lesbian, bisexual, gay, queer, transgender or just curious – for everybody, no matter their gender or sexuality. Hot Key Books. ISBN: 9781471403958.



This Book Thinks You're a Scientist. In association with the Science Museum, illustrated by Harriet Russell. Children will delight in inventing their own scientific ways of finding out about the world in this fun and entertaining introduction to science. Thames and Hudson. ISBN: 9780500650813.



Twilight Realm: Aliens by Jim Pipe. This book encourages readers to imagine themselves as explorers of the paranormal on the trail of aliens. Hachette. ISBN: 9780750266611.



Unbored: The Essential Field Guide to Serious Fun by Joshua Glenn, Elizabeth and Foy Larsen with illustrations by Tony Leone, Mister Reusch and Heather Kasunick. This book is crammed with activities that are not only fun and doable but also designed to get kids engaged with the wider world. Bloomsbury. ISBN: 9781608196418.



Under Earth, Under Water by Aleksandra Mizielinski and Daniel Mizielinski. From early submarines and deep-sea life, to burrowing animals and man-made tunnels - you will never look at the world in the same way again! Templar. ISBN: 9781783703647.



We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures by Amnesty International. This beautiful collection celebrates each declaration with an illustration by an internationally-renowned artist or illustrator. Frances Lincoln. ISBN: 9781847806635.



What is Humanism? How do you live without a god? And Other Big Questions for Kids by Michael Rosen and Annemarie Young. This book examines how humanists respond to fundamental questions about morals and ethics, the origins of life, religion and the state. Hachette. ISBN: 9780750288422.



You are Stardust: Our Amazing Connections With Planet Earth by Elin Kelsey, illustrated by Soyeon Kim. With simple, poetic text, and exquisite artwork, this book introduces kids to connections between humankind and nature - sparking their imaginations and starting conversations.

Hachette. ISBN: 9780750296571.



What makes it rain? by Katie Daynes, illustrated by Christine Pym. With flaps to lift on every page, this delightful book answers the questions that all young children ask about the weather, from 'Where does wind come from?' to 'Why is it colder in winter?' Usborne. ISBN: 9781409598817.



You Rule! Design a completely new nation from scratch. You'll choose where it's located, what it looks like, how many people live in it, what they do and how they travel. Lonely Planet Kids. 9781743607831.



What on Earth? Stickerbook of British History by Christopher Lloyd and Patrick Skipworth. What on Earth? stickerbooks tell giant stories using stickers on a timeline. This one is all about the amazing story of the History of Britain from the dinosaurs to the present day. What on Earth. ISBN: 9780993019944.



Zoo in the Sky: A Book of Animal Constellations by Jacqueline Mitton and Christina Balit. Featuring constellations named after animals, birds and fish, this text introduces young children to a "zoo" in the sky.

Frances Lincoln. ISBN: 9780711213197.



Wicked World Tour by Anita and Mike Phillips. Your passport to deadly excitement and lots of giggles, packed with grisly and disgusting true facts about staying alive out there! Scholastic. ISBN: 9781407157573.



Zoology by Joelle Jolivet. A beautifully illustrated, captivating guide to the world's animals. Animal books don't get much bigger than this. Egmont. ISBN: 9781405243407.



Would You Rather...Dine with a Dung Beetle or Lunch with a Maggot? by Camilla de la Bedoyere, illustrated by Mel Howells. Readers will decide what they'd rather eat, where they'd rather live and what super senses they'd rather have. Full of endless possibilities for discussion! QED. ISBN: 9781784931971.

All book are in print as of November 2016.

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