

A Child's Introduction to Natural History The Story of Our Living Earth—From Amazing Animals and Plants to Fascinating Fossils and Gems- Smithsonian
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A beautiful book, extraordinarily well illustrated and pitched to a child.

The most damning remark I can make is that the Smithsonian "Natural History" is so extraordinarily good, and so graphically rich that the text doesn't matter much, that my five-year-old prefers it. I am happy to have both.

The descriptions of animals, plants and minerals are pitched very well for a child. It is enough information that they are interested. In this day in which print must compete with media, this is a very powerful competitor. My son constantly pesters me to look for videos on the Internet of things like leopards killing antelope and such. I would far rather that he get his information from reading. The written word is a faster way to convey information, and the information is somewhat more objective, less laden with emotion than the video image. For that reason I am extremely happy to have this book to read together with him. When you read together with the child there is a bond that is absent when you merely sit together and witness the same events on video. The child's brain needs conversation in order to develop, and a book provides the opportunity for such conversation.

In summary, this book was very much worth the cost and will be read for several years to come. The English is at a very approachable level, which means that my son will be able to share it with his friends even though English is to them a second language.