

Natural History - Smithsonian
DK Publishing

Outstanding book. The focus is on life - animals first, then plants. Minerals are well done, but a secondary concern.

I bought this along with a couple of kids' books to put on my 5-year-old's bookshelf. The photographs are amazing. They carry the story. The text is good, but a picture is worth a thousand words, especially for a child.

There is always something to learn. I, for instance, learned that flowering plants evolved well before the great extinction of the dinosaurs. There are fossils of oak trees that far back. More than that, probably because they reproduce by seeds, it appears that plants survived that event better than animals.

This book gets a lot of attention from guests to my home in Ukraine. It is the kind of thing that Americans continue to do well. I am gratified to add that it is delightfully low-key on sensitive topics such as global warming. They simply want to display nature in all its glory, and do a great job.