

Year 3 and Year 4 Non-Fiction

To support teachers with selecting appropriate texts for their year groups, the list has been annotated to indicate suitability for Y3, Y4 or both. Teachers may find that earlier texts are more suitable for the beginning of the year while those towards the end of the list are more complex in either language or concepts and therefore could be more appropriate towards the end of the year. Texts noted specifically as Y3 or Y4 are particularly useful for teaching specific grammar objectives for that year group.

Please note, however, that the all the sequences have been written to suit the two-year Y3/4 English curriculum and are not intended to be taught in a set sequence. In all cases, teachers need to make text choices based on the individual needs of their classes: almost all of these texts have been used successfully across both year groups in different contexts.

Text	Overview and possible curriculum links	Grammar	Y3	Y4
Grow your own Lettuce	Grow Your Own Lettuce by Helen Lanz Y2/3 A set of instructions about growing lettuce surrounded by other information such as types of lettuce, harvesting and a calendar. There is a set of instructions about sowing lettuce seed but in fact the whole book is a set of extended instructions. A really useful book to move away from the one-page set of simple instructions. Possible curriculum links: Science - plants	Verbs, imperative Sentences with more than one clause	Ŋ	
Tosie Jeffery OUTDOOR OUTDOOR OUTDOOR Outde to Being Outde to Being Outde to Being Outde to Being Outde to Being Outde to Being Outde to Being	Outdoor Wonderland by Jeffery and Lickens Y2/3 An information text that is packed full of instructions for things to make or do outside. Each double page spread has an introduction, information and instructions. Possible curriculum links: Science – plants Geography - location in UK	Layout of pages Contractions Conjunctions Prepositional phrases	Ŋ	



Cartine Wortson and Vice Le Billion March Carton Cartine Wortson and Vice Le Billion Cartine Wortson and Vice Le Billion Adventures in Science Cartine Wortson and Vice Le Billion Adventures in Science Cartine Wortson and Vice Le Billion Cartine Wortson and Vice Le Billion Adventures in Science Cartine Wortson and Vice Le Billion Cartine Wortson and Vice Le Billion Adventures in Science Cartine Wortson and Vice Le Billion Cartine Wortson	Currently being revised and not available on Babcock LDP shop. Marvin and Milo Adventures in Science available on website http://www.physics.org/marvinandm ilo.asp A short sequence: great for writing science experiments. Possible curriculum links: Science - electricity, forces, states of matter, light and sound	Conjunctions Clauses Imperative Different ways of presenting information		
Ret the heroes of a frozen world	Penguins by Penelope Arlon This is a lovely book organised non-chronologically but with sections that are chronological such as the development of a penguin from emperor egg to chick. The images are stunning and so layout on a page would be something for children to explore. Possible curriculum links: Science - animals and habitats Geography - human/physical	A wider range of subordinating conjunctions, complex sentences	ß	
ROCER MCCOUCH - CHRIS MIDDELL UTCII I Met Ducalley Mow Rely Winns 	Until I Met Dudley by Roger McGough An explanatory text based on an imaginary way something works and then the real way. Short chunks of writing which allow children to focus on the sentence construction and precise word choice. Possible curriculum links: Science or technology	Complex sentences Second person Present tense Wider range of punctuation (brackets and exclamation marks)		



Beatrice's Dream A store of Ribera Slum	Beatrice's Dream: A Story of Kibera Slum by Karen Lynn Williams This recount allows for exploration of another culture with a description of Kibera at the end of the book. Strong, uncomplicated sentences that allow children to see different constructions clearly. This text demonstrates the value of only incorporating relevant information. Possible curriculum links: Geography - location outside the UK	Adverbials, fronted adverbials Complex sentences Speech	N	
Animals	Currently being revised and not available on Babcock LDP shop. Ask Dr K Fisher about Animals by Claire Llewellyn A non-chronological text based on letters between Dr K Fisher and animals with problems. Very funny! Possible curriculum links: Science - animals and habitats	Complex sentences, subordinating conjunctions, main and subordinate clause	Ŋ	
Rainforest Rainforest Couton Cuiton Cuiton Cuiton Cuiton	Currently being revised and not available on Babcock LDP shop. Rainforest Rough Guide by Paul Mason A text organised around a diary but also including letters, fact files and emails. A good text to use if you want to see how children handle a hybrid text. Possible curriculum links: Geography - location (in or outside the UK)	Clauses, complex sentences Verbs	Ŋ	Ŋ
THERE WE RES	Dare to Care: Pet Dragon by Mark Robertson and Sally Symes All you need to know to cope with the challenge of keeping a dragon as a pet, from selecting the right sort of egg thief, to rearing your dragon, together with important cautionary notes. Information is organised in sections using different forms, e.g. labelled diagrams, captioned illustrations, fact files, prose.	Heading and sub-headings Conjunctions in multi-clause sentences Expressing time, place and cause with conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions	Ŋ	



Available free on our website!	How Santa Really Works by Alan Snow If you know and love 'How Dogs Really Work' by the same author, then this book is one for you. The whole text is an explanation but with other elements included. Wonderful! Possible curriculum links: RE - festivals (Christmas)	Noun referencing for cohesion Sentences of more than one clause Punctuation	
Animals - energy	An Anthology of Intriguing Animals by Ben Hoare This stunning book is a visual delight. Each double page spread features a different animal with intriguing and surprising facts that keep the reader turning the pages. The element of surprise is compounded by the organisation of content, and the inclusion of a wide range of both common and more unusual species. Ideal to use when studying animal characteristics and habitats. Possible curriculum links: Science - animals and habitats	Single and multi-clause sentences (compound and complex) Prepositional phrases as adverbials Cohesion through use of nouns and pronouns There are many instances of apostrophes for contraction and possessive apostrophes (singular and plural) although the sequence does not include specific activities on this	
Science in a flash	Rocks (Science in a Flash series) by Georgia Amson- Bradshaw This is an engaging text with everything you need to know about rocks. The layout is simple to follow but really attractive. The sequence has been written to link with Y3/4 science and the children will write about sedimentary rocks and/or fossils as an outcome. Possible curriculum links: Science: Rocks, fossils and soils Geography: physical	Nouns and noun phrases for precision and clarity Pronouns/nouns for cohesion and avoiding repetition Adverbials of where Prepositional phrases Fronted adverbials Paragraphs around a theme (There is also scope to teach subordination but this is not included in the sequence.)	



Thet the Artist! CCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC	Meet the Artist! Alexander Calder by Patricia Geis This is a delightful biography of the artist Alexander Calder. The book takes you through his life and the different types of art he has made, including some that you can too. The paragraphing is clear and easy to imitate. There are several in the series. The Pablo Picasso biography would be suitable for upper KS2. Possible curriculum links: Art	Complex sentences Clauses Fronted adverbials Paragraphs	Ŋ	
ALL	A Walk in London by Salvatore Rubbino This is a dual-voiced text about a trip around London. The main voice is the excited child, the second voice being information about the various places. Great for securing dialogue and comparing different types of writing. Possible curriculum links: Geography - location in the UK	Dialogue Clauses, complex sentences Expanded noun phrases Commas Speech punctuation	Ŋ	
Note: this book can also be used as a great stimulus for poetry, particularly if choosing to explore vocabulary in more depth, but this is not the focus for this teaching sequence.	The Colours of History: How Colours Shaped the World by Clive Gifford, illustrated by Marc-Etienne Peintre A vibrant book (winner of the 2019 Blue Peter Book Awards, 'Best Book with Facts' category)! It's chock-a-block with fascinating facts about colours – their origins, uses throughout history, symbolism and influence on daily life. Information is clearly grouped, organised and attractively illustrated – highly engaging. Possible curriculum links: Computing – using search technologies & evaluating content History – study of a trend over time; local history study Art – colour! Art history, famous painters and their paintings	Expanded noun phrases Prepositional phrases Adverbials, including fronted Commas after fronted adverbials Headings and subheadings; presentation and layout (Vocabulary)		



CREAT Workerst who changed THE WORLD Kole Pauliarst	Fantastically Great Women Who Changed The World by Kate Pankhurst This very accessible and fascinating book contains thirteen biographies of women from different periods of history. It includes well-known people such as Anne Frank and Amelia Earhart but also other less known women such as Agent Fifi and Sacagawea. The layout invites and intrigues the reader with visual details and pathways through the text. Possible curriculum links: History - important people	Expanded noun phrases Adverbials of time and place (prepositional phrases) Paragraphing/sections		
	Book of Bones: 10 Record Breaking Animals by Gabrielle Balkan Ten record-breaking animal bones are introduced through a series of superlatives set up as a guessing game with clues. Readers examine animals' skeletons and guess to whom they belong; the answers are revealed in vibrant, full-colour scenic habitats, with easily understood — and humorous — explanations. Possible curriculum links: Science - animals and habitats	Conjunctions and clauses Use of pronouns Possessive apostrophe	Z	
	The Dictionary of Difficult Words by Jane Solomon, illustrated by Louise Lochhart This is a book to spend considerable time with! It's attractively presented, packed full of wonderfully unusual and interesting words. Guaranteed to encourage logophilia and satisfy the already word curious. (Note: there is also a Y5/6 teaching sequence written around this text, with quite different suggested activities and focus, but the book could be enjoyed by a whole key stage class.) Possible curriculum links: History - roles/jobs in different historical periods	Vocabulary Subordinate clauses, conjunctions Nouns/pronouns for clarity and cohesion Commas after fronted adverbials Presentation and layout		



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	Everest by Sangma Francis and Lisk Feng 'This is the story of the mountain that is tallest of them all' This information book makes use of several different text types to communicate a sense of awe and wonder about Everest and the many aspects of this special place, past and present. Possible curriculum links: Geography - physical/human	Expanded noun phrases Prepositional phrases Vocabulary Present perfect verb form Noun and pronoun referencing	Ŋ	Ŋ
Everything you need to know about STACKED BEAM	Everything you need to know about SNAKES by John Woodward Whole KS2 sequence This is a sequence that can be used with a whole KS class or a Y3/4 one. The book is a fascinating look at scaly reptiles and contains a range of text types. It is a visual delight Possible curriculum links: Science - animals and habitats, plants	Verb tense and choice Noun phrases Layout for meaning	N	



COULD YOUR COULD YOUR COULD YOUR COULD YOUR COULD YOUR COULD YOUR COULD YOUR	How to Invent (beyond the Rubik's Cube) by Lyn Huggins-Cooper This book has a range of text types included in it such as chronological reports and non-chronological reports all organised chronologically by the steps necessary to become an inventor. This is a perfect book for giving children the choice about how they present their work. Possible curriculum links: History - important people or impact of historical invention	Fronted adverbials Expanded noun phrases Complex punctuation	
<image/> <text><section-header><text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text></section-header></text>	Persuasive letter: RSPB Text available with teaching sequence A charity letter persuading people to join the RSPB but can be used to persuade in a whole range of situations. Strongly patterned at word, sentence and text level. Possible curriculum links: Science - animals and habitats Geography - human impact	Expanded noun phrases Adverbials, patterning of sentences Modal verbs (Y5)	