

#### KS2 non-fiction hot reads, May 2024



# Dictionary of Dinosaurs by Dieter Braun

9780711290525 £9.99

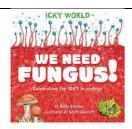
This is an illustrated A – Z of every dinosaur ever discovered. Every one! An image of the extinct creature is accompanied by a short summary of what we know about it: size, diet, when it lived and where it was found. If you like dinosaurs and enjoy comparing (dino-) bite-sized chunks of information then read on and you too will be able to tell a Shanag from a Neovenator – you may even be able to pronounce Saurornitholestes.



# Can't Get Enough Horse Stuff by Neil Cavanaugh

9781426373916 £9.99

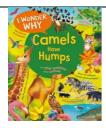
If horses are your thing, then this is the book for you. It is exactly what it says on the cover: a compendium of horsey stuff including equine jokes, quizzes, games, and trivia. Ever wondered why Neddy is measured in hands? What is a fetlock? Maybe you've pondered how much dung can a horse produce in a single day? Find the answers here with loads of colourful photos that are bound to appeal. (The answer is 25 kg, by the way but a bit less for smaller horses).



#### We Need Fungus! by Addy Farmer

9781526323156 £12.99

If your knowledge of fungi is limited to the belief that mushrooms are an essential part of a full English breakfast, then you need to read this book. Fungi, it turns out, is essential to the way the world functions: from decomposing dead material to helping trees grow to stabilizing sand dunes and sucking up radiation. A whole new world of micro-strangeness opens up providing fascinating reading for the budding mycologist.



# I Wonder Why Camels Have Humps by Anita Ganeri

9780753448779 £7.99

What's the difference between a monkey and an ape? Or an alligator and a crocodile? Not easy, is it? This book will lead you on a journey through the animal kingdom that answers some of these puzzling questions. Each section begins with a question and then goes on to provide the answer along with other interesting facts in a fun and concise way. Read on if you want to know how many ants a giant anteater can get through in a day — it's a lot *and* anteaters don't have any teeth.



# The Firefly's Light by Sarah Horne

9780702315893 £7.99

An exploration of the many and varied ways in which nature has inspired human inventions or, to use the technical term, it's a book about biomimicry. If you have ever wondered why those seeds stick to your clothes or how a gecko manages to walk up vertical surfaces without the aid of a rope, then keep going. Natural adaptations are explained very clearly and then how unravelling these natural mysteries has enabled scientists and inventors to design products to benefit humans. Where would we be without Velcro? Would we be undone?



#### Deep by Jess McGeachin

9781803380810

Not as philosophical as it sounds. This is an exploration of everything 'deep' whether that's the deep ocean, deep space or deep time. A fascinating guide to hard-to-reach places – some of which you really wouldn't want to visit, the sewerage system for one. Really diverse subjects are linked including archaeological finds, minerals, fossils, animal homes and the human body. Take a dive into the world of depth in all its wonderful variety.



#### 1,000 Amazing Weird Facts by Andrea Mills

9780241607558

£9.99

£8.99

Not simply a collection of weird facts but a compilation of mind-blowing bizarreness. Divided into sections such as planet earth, human wonders, and peculiar plants, this is a must for the curious mind. The weird facts keep on coming; Google Earth, for example, uses camel-mounted cameras to map the desert but in the Faroe Islands the cameras are attached to sheep! Loads of good colour photos and CGI help sustain the fascination.



# We Are All Astronauts by Kate Pankhurst

9781526615435 £7.99

A surprisingly space-savvy Granny guides budding astronaut Luna through what it takes to travel to space and much more beside. For a start, the coldest place in the universe is -273 degrees Celsius so some heated gloves are in order. However, in direct sunlight it could reach 121 degrees so don't forget to switch your gloves off. Who knew? There is also a lesson in rocket building from Mary Jackson and a ride on the Space Shuttle with Mae Jemison and then (even better) there are Tardigrades. STEM at the final frontier.



#### 21 Things to do With a Tree by Jane Wilsher

9780711280526

£9.99

Chopping it down is not one of the options. Instead, the reader is encouraged to make friends with their tree, give it a hug and even take a bath with their arboreal bestie – a forest bath that is. This is a fun outdooractivity book that aims to foster engagement with the natural world through assorted activities as diverse as tree climbing and art.