

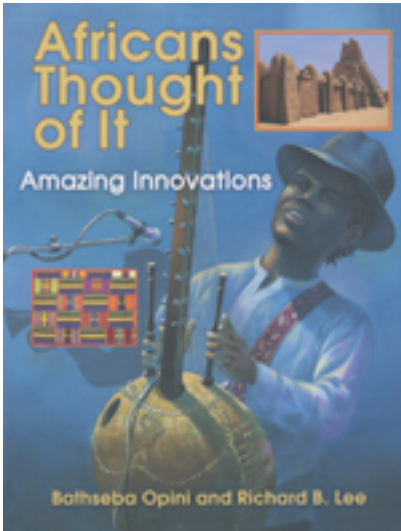
Silver Birch® Non-Fiction Nominees



50 Poisonous Questions: A Book With Bite

Tanya Lloyd Kyi, Ross Kinnaird
Annick Press

Employing an entertaining question and answer format, this book explores various types of lethal substances, both natural and man-made. Beginning with a chapter titled Spikes and Fangs, we are then introduced to poisonous insects, plants, minerals, and gases. We read about poisoners, from the Roman Empire to the Nazi death camps, and about disasters like Bhopal. The book concludes with a chapter on the positive uses of poisons. With great illustrations and interesting trivia, everyone will love this book!

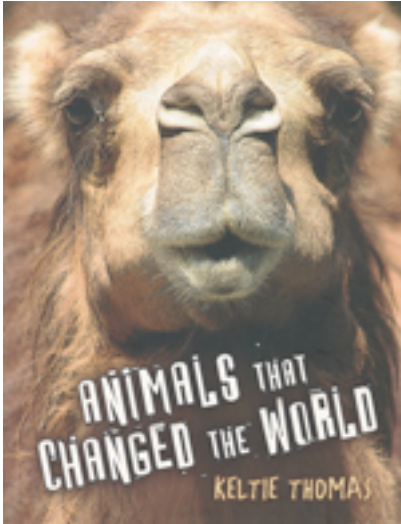


Africans Thought of It: Amazing Innovations

Bathseba Opini, Richard B. Lee
Annick Press

This fourth book in the successful 'We Thought of It' series, takes the readers on a fascinating journey across the world's second largest continent to discover how aspects of its culture have spread around the globe. This lovely book is full of interesting, informative facts and descriptive colourful photos. The book is divided into sections dealing with:

- Hunting (using poisonous arrows and tracking techniques),
- Agriculture (wild watermelon and coffee),
- Architecture (massive stone walls in Zimbabwe still standing today)
- Medicine (from the many natural plants, including aloe vera)
- Music (invention of musical instruments from gourds and seeds)
- Arts & Crafts (bark cloth, basket weaving, kente cloth)
- Communication (using animal horns)
- Sports (bao, nhodo, spear and rumbu throwing)
- Africa today



Animals That Changed the World

Keltie Thomas
Annick Press

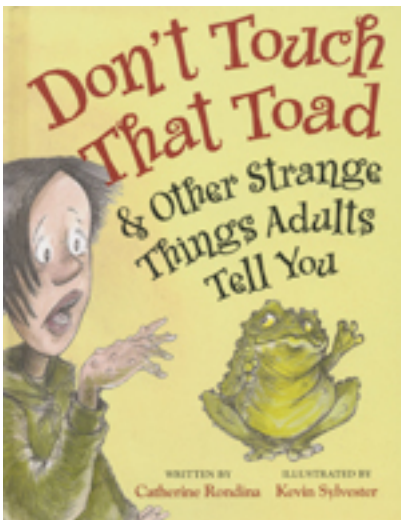
Many animals have actually played a part in changing the world in many ways. Horses helped humans travel faster and helped move large burdens. Rats brought disease from port to port as ships sailed the world. Silkworms allowed people make soft, comfortable cloth. Pigeons were the telephones of people from 500 BCE until the invention of the telephone. Read about lots of other animals that helped change the world!



Case Closed? Nine Mysteries Unlocked by Modern Science

Susan Hughes, Michael Wandelmaier
Kids Can Press

What ever happened to the thriving city of Ubar? Why did the Anasazi people disappear? Was Hatshepsut really a female pharaoh? Susan Hughes takes on nine historic mysteries from different world cultures and explains how they have been solved by the application of modern scientific techniques such as satellite imagery, CAT scans, DNA analysis and sonar. Providing details of each case with colourful graphics and archival materials, Hughes explains why the cases were re-opened, details the personnel involved and their investigations and ultimately their findings.



Don't Touch That Toad & Other Strange Things Adults Tell You

Catherine Rondina, Kevin Sylvester
Kids Can Press

Have your parents ever told you that you shouldn't swallow a watermelon seed because a watermelon will grow in your stomach? Or have you celebrated Groundhog Day with your class, finding that either spring is just around the corner, or winter will last another six weeks? How about those elephants – do they forget? And if they don't, what is it they remember?

Catherine Rondina takes a look at many of the old sayings you've heard, examines them and their history, and gives you the truth about them. You'll find out, once and for all, if holding your breath will cure the hiccups, and if eating sugar will make you hyper.

You'll be able to educate your parents!



Game Day: Meet the People Who Make It Happen

Kevin Sylvester
Annick Press

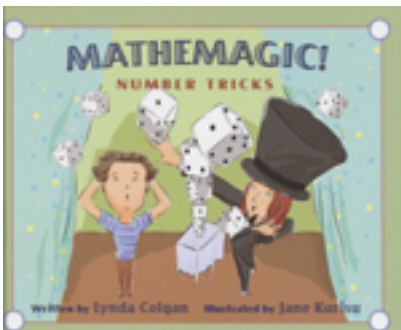
This book takes you behind the scenes and into the lives of the people who ensure professional sport events are entertaining and engaging for the fans. With Kevin Sylvester's unique writing style, readers are introduced to a wide range of jobs and people. Professional choreographer, zamboni driver, and time keeper are occupations some readers might not realize are just as important to the event as the people performing. This book gives great detail into the demands and importance of these "behind the scenes" jobs. The factual text of each job is interjected with great personal narratives from the people profiled, and is sure to engage all readers -- sports fan or not.



Highway of Heroes

Kathy Stinson
Fitzhenry & Whiteside

A boy's father, a Canadian soldier, has died in Afghanistan. Using photographs and quotes this book shows how his father is repatriated to CFB Trenton and then travels the Highway of Heroes, part of Highway 401, to Toronto. The support of strangers standing on bridges and on the roadsides during the winter trip helps the boy and his family cope with the loss of his father. They realize Canadians are thankful and proud for the sacrifice his father, a Canadian hero, made. Learn how this section of Highway 401 came to be named the Highway of Heroes as well as how the Route of Heroes was named.

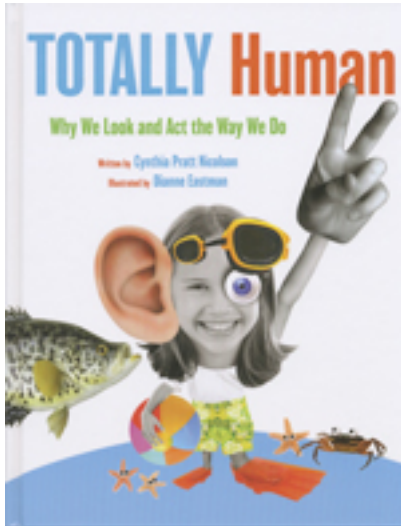


Mathemagic! Number Tricks

Lynda Colgan, Jane Kurisu
Kids Can Press

Ten different categories of tricks using math are explained using colourful illustrations, straightforward instructions and a light-hearted voice.

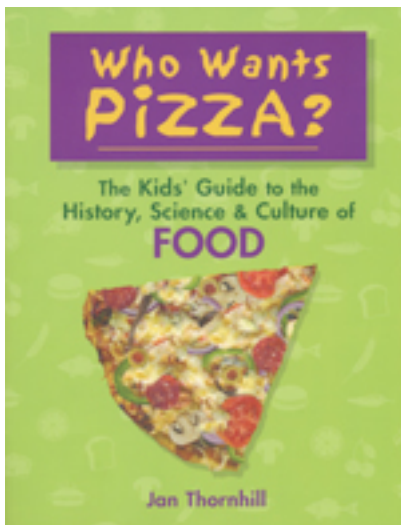
What a fun way of introducing numbers & math in a way that will appeal to a wide audience! A child can work on the tricks on their own or with a friend/adult. The illustrations are clear and fun. The tone is conversational but the directions are clear. This will also appeal to both sexes as there are clear pictures of both all through the book. An added sense of mystery and challenge adds to the appeal. The side bars and "how this works" were interesting and well-explained. The steps to do the tricks are easy to follow and certain to entertain.



Totally Human: Why We Look and Act the Way We Do

Cynthia Pratt Nicolson, Dianne Eastman
Kids Can Press

You are special and unique, and defined by your genes and your experiences. But WHY do you do the things you do? This book answers many of the questions we have about ourselves: why we laugh, why we yawn, why we shake when we're scared. Have you ever wondered why you crave junk food, why you love music, or why you need to sleep? You will find the answers to all these questions and more in this entertaining and humorous look at being human.



Who Wants Pizza? The Kids' Guide to the History, Science & Culture of Food

Jan Thornhill
Maple Tree Press

Using a favourite food as a focal point, Who Wants a Pizza is an engaging book filled with important facts about what we eat. All of the facts are presented in an interesting style with comprehensive photos and illustrations that explain and expand the information.

Presenting foods of the past, present, and future, the author explains why we eat what we eat and why our eating habits have changed over time. Serious problems such as starvation and malnutrition in Third World countries, potential collapse of overfishing and the threat to farmers of corporate food production are sensitively and forthrightly explained. However, appropriate humour and excellent discussions of alternatives and options that can help solve humanity's food problems make the presentation positive and upbeat.

This is a great read for anyone who enjoys eating!!!