



Notes from Inspiring Kids to Find their Inner Scientist
By Jennifer Swanson

Get Outside and Get Inventing!

Observation!

What is the coolest thing this animal does?

How can that be used to create something that will help humans?

Make a Journal

Draw it!

Illustrate the animal

Illustrate a picture of the helpful attribute

Design it!

Gather materials and see if you can make a model

It can be out of building blocks, paper, cardboard, whatever

If you have access to robotics materials, that works, too

Test it out! (think like an engineer)

See if it works and/or present your idea to the class or to their parents to see how it would be useful

Take feedback and then make adjustments

Inspiring Creativity Through STEM

Write a Story

Have students write a story about their creation

How it was used? How it came to life? How it helped people?

Research

Have students do research to learn about the engineers and scientists who design biomimetic creatures

They could do presentations on what they find

Have them discover what inspired these individuals to connect the animal with the problem

Draw graphic novels of their creature

Fiction or nonfiction

Have the real animal meet its biomimetic inspired creation

Podcasts

Brains On! <https://www.brainson.org/>

Tumble Science Podcast for Kids <https://www.sciencepodcastforkids.com/>

Solve It! for Kids <https://solveitforkids.com/>

Science Podcasts for Kids <https://about.radiopublic.com/2019/06/05/science-podcasts-for-kids/>

Suggested Websites/Books where you can get information about nonfiction books and topics

STEM Tuesday www.stemtuesday.com

Monthly themed posts about a single topic—book list, activities, giveaway

Nonfiction Minute.com <http://www.nonfictionminute.com/>

Basically, a “sound byte” of knowledge about a point in history, science, a biography, or event, or a bit of trivia

Classroom Bookshelf.com <http://classroombookshelf.blogspot.com/>

Each Monday, The Classroom Bookshelf posts an entry on a recently published book for children or young adults. Each entry includes three sections: Book Review, Teaching Invitations, and Further Explorations. Our goal is to identify books that can be used in K-8 classrooms in a variety of ways.

INKThinkTank.com <http://inkthinktank.com/>

Nonfiction authors who do school and Skype visits

Nomad Press Teacher Guides http://nomadpress.net/resources/for-teachers/resource-guides-2/?utm_content=32494479&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook

Teacher's guides for tons of different STEM books

Perfect Pairs by Melissa Stewart and Nancy Chesley http://www.amazon.com/Perfect-Pairs-Fiction-Nonfiction-Picture/dp/1571109587/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1463405618&sr=1-1&keywords=perfect+pairs+book

This is the book that gives you guides for how to use fiction and nonfiction Life science picture books

Picture- Perfect Science Lessons by Emily Morgan and Karen Ansberry <http://www.nsta.org/store/bestsellers.aspx>

There are several books in this series published by the National Science Teacher Assn (NSTA). I believe that you can also purchase a whole package of books that go with this guide. Contact the NSTA online for more information.

Check out teachers guides for all of your favorite nonfiction books. They are usually found on the author websites.

My Brain Games, SUPER GEAR, Save the Crash-test Dummies, and Astronaut Aquanaut teacher guides are FREE and can be downloaded online at <http://jenniferswansonbooks.com/>



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