

Barb's BookSpot: Episode 2

January, 2015

***Born in the Wild: Baby Mammals and their Parents* by Lita Judge**
Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, 2014.

Baby mammals have many shared traits, but each has unique needs and characteristics as well, and must adapt to survive in its own habitat. This is a great title to begin the discussion about characteristics of mammals and the notion of basic needs. The book closes by making a connection to humans – we are mammals too, and our babies have needs just like all the others: “Kits, joey, cubs and colts – every baby mammal needs gentle care and teaching... JUST LIKE YOU!” Back matter includes more information about each of the animals presented, a glossary, a source list, and some websites for further exploration and information.

***Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World* by Steve Jenkins**
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014.

This book discusses all of the different ways eyes have evolved based on various creatures' needs and habits. It begins with an explanation about why sight is important, and a basic history showing how eyes have developed from simple light-sensitive *eyespots* into complex and compound organs. The text gives information about the types of eyes, the number of eyes, with details about exactly what/how well each creature can see with suggestions about why a creature may have evolved in this way. Back matter includes an explanation of the evolution of the eye with a sample for each stage with quick facts about each creature in the order they were introduced in the book. The size of the creature is given in both metric and U.S customary units. A bibliography and glossary are also included. If you teach a unit of study about eyes in elementary science, this book might be a great way to either kick-off or tie up your unit.

***Secrets of the Seashore: A Shine – a – Light Book* by Carron Brown ; Illust. by Alyssa Nassner.**
Kane Miller Books, 2014.

This is a fun book which combines counting, predicting and guessing activities as it explores a tide pool habitat. The first page explains that as you read, you can shine a flashlight behind each page to reveal something new about the tide pool and the creatures that live there. This is a book you might read aloud, but I can see children pouring over it and flipping the pages for themselves as well. In 2013, another Shine-a-Light book by the same authors was published called, ***Secrets of the Apple Tree***. If your students and children like this type of activity, you may want to check that one out as well.

