

Discovering PLANTS & ANIMALS

Volume Three | Oceania, Canada,
Mexico, the Caribbean, Central &
South America, Antarctica, and More

of the World



Daily
**SKILL
BUILDING**

Open & Go Homeschool Resources

Discovering Plants and Animals of the World, Volume 3

by Carrie Fernandez and [WriteBonnieRose](#)

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SAMPLE



Introduction

Discovering Plants and Animals of the World, Volume 3 is appropriate for elementary and middle school students and is best suited to grades 3-6. Over the course of the unit, your student will learn the names of some of the many animals and plants that live in all 14 independent countries of Oceania, the 13 provinces and territories of Canada, Mexico and the 13 independent countries of the Caribbean, all 7 independent countries of Central America, all 12 independent countries of South America, Antarctica, and 23 dependent areas of the United Kingdom and France.

The core lessons include text to read about the animals and plants of a region and comprehension questions to answer. The main text is separate from the Student Book so it can be read on the computer rather than printed if desired.

The Student Book includes student printables with the comprehension questions. It also includes the following optional bonus activities:

- **Let's Take a Closer Look:** With this printable, your student can choose an animal or plant to do deeper research on. They can use the template to record the information they discover.
- **Habitat Templates:** This set of 13 templates allows your student to investigate the plants and animals that live in a particular habitat and record what they find. A bonus blank template is also included for your student to research additional habitats if desired.
- **Extension Activities:** This set of questions challenges your student to go deeper on topics briefly mentioned in the unit such as endangered animals, animals of the Amazon Rain Forest, types of bats, and other topics. A notebooking page is included to record answers.
- **Bonus Extension Activity:** This bonus project suggests topics for a presentation related to the unit that your student can do and lists several options for the type of presentation, though the options are endless.

The answers to the comprehension questions can be found at the end of the Student Book. Answers to additional activities are not included as they will vary based on what your student chooses to research.



Discovering Plants & Animals of the World

How To Use Alongside Daily Skill Building: World Geography & History

Discovering Plants & Animals of the World can easily be used as a standalone resource, however if you'd like to use it alongside *Daily Skill Building: World Geography & History*, here is a chart so you can see at a glance how the lessons in the two units correspond.

Discovering Plants & Animals	World Geography & History	Discovering Plants & Animals	World Geography & History
Lesson 1	Lessons 1-7	Lesson 28	Lessons 94-96
Lesson 2	Lessons 8-11	Lesson 29	Lessons 97-99
Lesson 3	Lessons 12-14	Lesson 30	Lessons 100-102
Lesson 4	Lessons 15-17	Lesson 31	Lessons 103-105
Lesson 5	Lessons 18-20	Lesson 32	Lessons 106-109
Lesson 6	Lessons 21-23	Lesson 33	Lessons 110-113
Lesson 7	Lessons 24-26	Lesson 34	Lessons 114-116
Lesson 8	Lessons 27-30	Lesson 35	Lessons 117-120
Lesson 9	Lessons 31-33	Lesson 36	Lessons 121-126
Lesson 10	Lessons 34-36	Lesson 37	Lessons 127-129
Lesson 11	Lessons 37-39	Lesson 38	Lessons 130-133
Lesson 12	Lessons 40-42	Lesson 39	Lessons 134-136
Lesson 13	Lessons 43-45	Lesson 40	Lessons 137-141
Lesson 14	Lessons 46-48	Lesson 41	Lessons 142-144
Lesson 15	Lessons 49-51	Lesson 42	Lessons 145-148
Lesson 16	Lessons 52-54	Lesson 43	Lessons 149-152
Lesson 17	Lessons 55-57	Lesson 44	Lessons 153-157
Lesson 18	Lessons 58-60	Lesson 45	Lessons 158-161
Lesson 19	Lessons 61-63	Lesson 46	Lessons 162-164
Lesson 20	Lessons 64-66	Lesson 47	Lessons 165-167
Lesson 21	Lessons 67-69	Lesson 48	Lessons 168-170
Lesson 22	Lessons 70-74	Lesson 49	Lessons 171-173
Lesson 23	Lessons 75-78	Lesson 50	Lessons 174-176
Lesson 24	Lessons 79-82	Lesson 51	Lessons 177-179
Lesson 25	Lessons 83-86	Lesson 52	Lessons 180-182
Lesson 26	Lessons 87-90	Lesson 53	Lessons 183-186
Lesson 27	Lessons 91-93		



Discovering Plants & Animals of the World

Lesson 1

OCEANIA

Australia

Australia is known for its huge variety of wildlife, much of it found nowhere else in the world! We could never explore all the different kinds of animals that live here, but let's see which ones we can discover!

There are some very unique mammals that lay eggs called monotremes that live in Australia, the platypus and the short-beaked echidna. The only other monotremes that we know of are other kinds of echidnas that live on nearby New Guinea. There are many kinds of marsupials that live in Australia. Marsupials are mammals that have pouches for their young to grow in. Just some of the marsupials you can find in Australia are the numbat, Tasmanian devil, quoll, bandicoot, bilby, koala, wombat, little pygmy possum, common ringtail possum, red kangaroo, Eastern grey kangaroo, Western grey kangaroo, and tree kangaroo.

There are around 700 kinds of birds in Australia including the world's only black swans and two large flightless birds, the emu and the cassowary. You can also see a kookaburra, malleefowl, Australian brush-turkey, gang-gang cockatoo, satin bowerbird, wedge-tailed eagle, Australian pelican, galah, helmeted honeyeater, zebra finch, forest kingfisher, black kite, superb lyrebird, mistletoe bird, and brolga.

There are about 500 kinds of lizards in Australia, and all are nonpoisonous. They include blue-tongue lizards, frill-necked lizards, monitor lizards, and many others. Unfortunately, not being poisonous is not a characteristic of all the reptiles in Australia. Most of Australia's approximately 140 kinds of snakes are poisonous. Some, like the taipan and the tiger snake, are some of the most dangerous snakes in the world. The country is home to pythons such as the pygmy, diamond, Australian scrub, Oenpelli,





Discovering Plants & Animals of the World

Lesson 1

OCEANIA

Australia

brown water, and rough scaled python. It's also home to adders like the common death adder and desert death adder. And there are many other kinds of snakes in Australia including the eastern and western brown snake, lowlands copperhead, mulga, red-bellied, small-eyed, dugite, green tree, bandy-bandy, and white-lipped snake.

If you visit the Great Barrier Reef off the northeastern coast, there is nearly no end to the kinds of wildlife you can see! You can see fish such as wrasses, damselfish, triggerfish, and angelfish. There are sponges, anemones, lobsters, and crabs. Six of the seven kinds of sea turtles make their home in the reef. There are more than one hundred kinds of sharks in the reef, too, including whitetip sharks, blacktip sharks, hammerhead sharks, tiger sharks, and Wobbegong sharks.

Not only is Australia home to many different kinds of wildlife, it's also home to many different kinds of plants. Farmers in Australia grow crops including sugar cane, wheat, barley, cotton, grapes, and potatoes. With so many different types of land in Australia, from sandy beaches to dry deserts, there are many kinds of plants you can find. Common kinds of trees include about 700 kinds of acacias (called *wattles* in Australia) and about 500 kinds of eucalyptuses (called *eucalypts* in Australia).

Comprehension Check:

Answer questions #1-15.





Discovering Plants & Animals of the World

Lesson 2

OCEANIA

New Zealand

New Zealand is a world of unique and interesting plants and animals. One of the country's native tree species is the kauri, a type of pine tree. Farming is extremely important in New Zealand. Farmers raise livestock including beef and dairy cattle and sheep. They raise barley, oats, and wheat as well as apples, kiwi fruit, potatoes, grapes, and shallots.

The islands of New Zealand are full of native wildlife, though the native animals are mostly amphibians, reptiles, and insects. The reptiles include more than one hundred kinds of lizards, many of which are not found anywhere else in the world. If you explore the right places and are very fortunate, you might spot a tautuku gecko, orange-spotted gecko, broad-cheeked gecko, Muriwai gecko, and hura te ao gecko. There are also many kinds of skinks including the common skink, spotted skink, ornate skink, and McCann's skink. New Zealand is also home to the only two kinds of tuatara.

New Zealand is also famous for some of its birds such as the kiwi, which only lives in New Zealand, and the kea, a type of parrot. It is considered the seabird capital of the world, but it is also home to forest birds that do not live anywhere else in the world. Just a few of its many bird species are the kākāpō, morepork, pūkeko, tūī, Pacific white tern, masked (blue-faced) booby, and rowi.

The only land mammal native to New Zealand are bats, but the mammals in the waters surrounding the islands more than make up for it! If you visited New Zealand and observed the marine life long enough, you might see almost half of all the whale and dolphin species in the entire world! You can also see many kinds of seals and sea lions. There are nine kinds of dolphins that live in New Zealand's waters—Maui's dolphin, Hector's dolphin, killer whale (orca), bottlenose dolphin, dusky dolphin, common dolphin, and pilot whale. Just some of the





Discovering Plants & Animals of the World

Lesson 2

OCEANIA

New Zealand

other types of whales you can see are the blue whale, humpback whale, southern minke whale, fin whale, sei whale, and Bryde's whale. One of the world's rarest types of sea lions are New Zealand sea lions, and they are only found here. You might also spot a New Zealand fur seal, leopard seal, and elephant seal.

Comprehension Check:

Answer questions #1-10.





Discovering Plants & Animals of the World

Lesson 3

OCEANIA: MELANESIA

Papua New Guinea

Our first stop in Melanesia is Papua New Guinea. In addition to raising crops to feed their families, farmers grow many crops to export to other countries including bananas, coconuts, sweet potatoes, yams, cocoa, coffee, and tea. There are often mangrove trees near the coast of the islands with nipa palm and sago palm trees farther inland. There are rain forests as well as oak, beech, red cedar, and pine trees.

There are very few large mammals in Papua New Guinea, but there are many kinds of reptiles, marsupials, fish, and birds. The magnificent bird-of-paradise is just one of about forty types of birds-of-paradise that live in the islands, and it is shown on the nation's flag. Other birds you can see include the Salvadori's teal, pied cuckoo-dove, New Britain bronzewing, Scheepmaker's crowned-pigeon, knob-billed fruit-dove, violaceous coucal, Solomons nightjar, Starry owlet-nightjar, and black honey-buzzard.

You can see reptiles (though some are dangerous) including the bumblebee slender-toe gecko, spiny-headed sea snake, mysterious tree monitor, brown tree snake, coastal taipan, pig-nosed turtle, and blue-lipped sea krait.

Some of the marsupials you can see on the islands include quolls like the New Guinean quoll and bronze quoll; dasyures like the three-striped, black-tailed, and long-nosed dasyure; bandicoots like the northern brown, Raffray's, common spiny, and Papuan bandicoot; possums like the long-tailed pygmy and lowland ringtail possum; and cuscuses like the common spotted and woodlark cuscus. There are monotremes like the short-beaked echidna and eastern long-beaked echidna.

Comprehension Check:

Answer questions #1-7.





Discovering Plants & Animals of the World

Lesson 4

OCEANIA: MELANESIA

Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Fiji

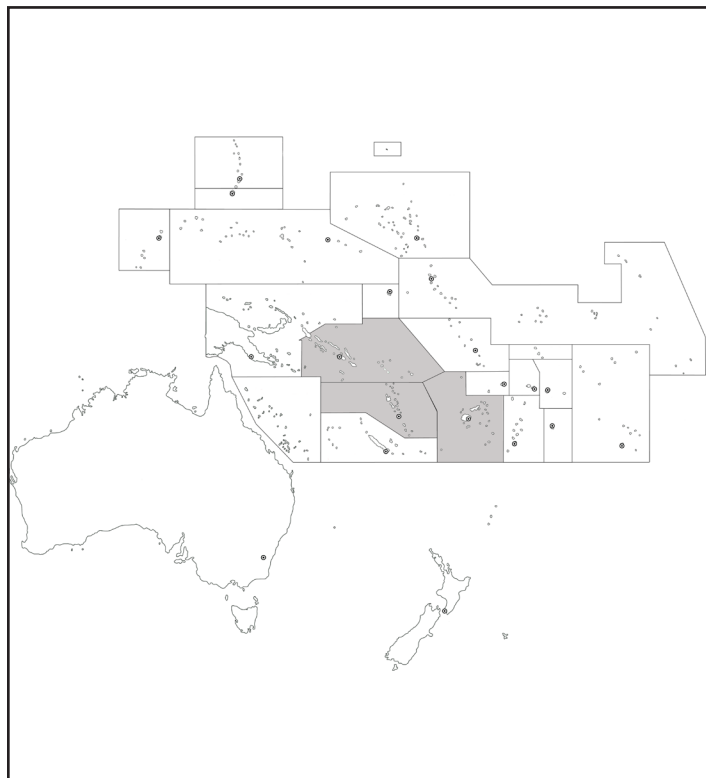
Agriculture is very important in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Fiji. All three countries grow and export coconuts (sometimes as dried coconut meat, which is called copra), and fishing is very important on the islands. Farmers on the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu grow cacao, and farmers on the Solomon Islands and Fiji grow sweet potatoes and cassava. Oil palm trees are sources of palm oil and palm kernels, which are very important in the Solomon Islands. Farmers on Vanuatu export bananas and groundnuts, while farmers in Fiji export sugar cane and ginger. Cattle, chickens, and pigs are common livestock for farmers in the region.

The islands of Melanesia are home to many types of ecosystems. You might find banyan, Polynesian ironwood, pandanus, coconut palms, and breadfruit trees. More than 60% of the plants in Fiji, such as the beautiful tagimaucia flower, are found only in Fiji.

Just like the types of trees, the types of animals vary as well. In the Solomon Islands, you can see banded sea snakes if you visit Lake Tegano. You can see saltwater crocodiles in Choiseul. You can spot birds such as Sanford's fish eagle, the Pacific black duck, and eastern reef egret.

In Vanuatu, you can see the world's only freshwater hermit crab, the *Clibanarius fonticola*, if you visit the Matevulu Blue Hole. The island of Ambrym is an especially important area for birds and is home to Vanuatu megapodes, Tanna fruit doves, red-bellied fruit doves, Gould's petrels, white-necked petrels, beach thick-knees, fan-tailed gerygones, grey-tailed tattlers, bar-tailed godwits, long-tailed trillers, palm lorikeets, Vanuatu white-eyes, Melanesian flycatchers, buff-bellied monarchs, and others.

Fiji is also home to exotic animals such as the Fijian banded iguana, Fijian crested





Discovering Plants & Animals of the World

Lesson 4

OCEANIA: MELANESIA

Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Fiji

iguana, Fijian monkey-faced bat, and Fijian ground frog, and birds such as the red-throated lorikeet, Fiji goshawk, Fiji petrel, and orange fruit dove.

The waters around the islands are home to dugongs, rorquals, humpback whales, spinner dolphins, bottlenose dolphins, orcas, Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins, striped dolphins, pygmy blue whales, fin whales, and pygmy killer whales.

Comprehension Check:

Answer questions #1-9.

