Bibliography

The books on this list have been carefully chosen to support the *Structures of Life* science kit. All of them were in print as of August 2003.

**Fiction**

**Anno, Mitsumasa. ANNO'S MAGIC SEEDS.** Philomel, 1995, $16.99, 36 p., 0-399-22538-2. Pictorially and conceptually, Anno explores the fundamental magic of planting seeds and harvesting crops. On another level, the mathematical theme provides tricky arithmetic puzzles woven into the text and illustration. Jack mends his lazy ways, becomes smarter, and has the courage to begin again - all because of two golden seeds.

**Cole, Henry. JACK'S GARDEN.** Greenwillow Books, 1995, $16.00, unp., 0-688-13501-3. Following the patterned writing of *The House that Jack Built*, Jack's garden grows. Large, excellent, colored pencil illustrations show development of the garden from bare ground, through planting, growth, and flowering. Within the illustrations and in the borders, the animals that visit the garden are beautifully portrayed.

**DiSalvo-Ryan, DyAnne. CITY GREEN.** Morrow, 1994, $14.44, 32 p., 0-688-12786-X. A diverse neighborhood is brought together by a young girl's dream of turning a litter strewn lot into a community garden. As the lot is transformed into an oasis of flowers and vegetables, the community spirit flourishes. The story is followed by a set of practical and helpful guidelines on how the community garden, which may inspire students to develop a garden at their school. Soft color pencil drawings enhance the text.

**Fleischman, Paul., SEEDFOLKS.** HarperCollins, 1997, $13.95, 69 p., 0-06-027472-7. In this award-winning book, the author has woven together the story of thirteen individuals living in the inner city who work both separately and together to establish and maintain a community garden. The people are from various cultures, a wide range in age, and their needs are quite different. This story described as "a harvest of hidden lives, a hymn to the power of plants and people," would serve well as a read-aloud in the classroom.

**Fleischman, Paul. WESLANDIA.** Candlewick Press, 1999, $15.00, unp., 0-7636-0006-7. Wesley, a creative and independent thinker needed a good summer project. Based on what he learned in school, Wesley decided to grow a staple food crop and begin his own civilization. It all started with his great imagination and a
plant that blew into his garden. From this plant, came all of his food, insect repellent made from seeds, clothing made from the plant fibers and everything else he needed. Using his creativity a little more, Wesley developed his own eighty-letter alphabet and a new set of games with strategies and complex scoring systems. It wasn't long until all his classmates, who previously considered Wesley "odd," became intrigued and wanted to become a part of Weslandia.

Stewart, Sarah. THE GARDENER. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2000, $15.00, 32 p., 0-374-42518-3. To ease the financial burden on her family, Lydia Grace moves to the city to live with her uncle and to help him in the bakery. She is not a baker, but a gardener. Lydia takes many seeds with her hoping that there will be a place for plants in her new surroundings. Told through letters, this book "speaks volumes about the vast impact one small individual can make." (Caldecott Honor book)

Non-Fiction

Aliki. CORN IS MAIZE: THE GIFT OF THE INDIANS. HarperTrophy, 1976, $9.26, 33 p., 0-06-445026-0. The Indian farmers discovered corn thousands of years ago, and today, people rely on this grain staple for many uses. Aliki takes the reader through the history of corn, varieties of corn, its important cultural and nutritional uses, as well as the making of corn-husk dolls, soaps, and baby powder.

Bail, Raymond. CORN BELT HARVEST. Houghton Mifflin, 1991, $15.30, 48 p., 0-395-56234-1. An informative photo-essay that traces what happens to corn from planting and cultivation through harvest and storage. Farming as an occupation and lifestyle is also an important part of this book. The combination of the large, clear photos, the captions, and the text make for a very strong connection to "corn country."

Bernhard, Emery and Durga. SALAMANDERS. Holiday House, 1995, $15.95, 32 p., 0-8234-1148-6. The salamanders' habitat and life cycle, from egg to larva to adult is the subject of this book. The authors describe how these animals hunt for food, what they eat, and which animals prey upon them. In addition, readers can find out why salamanders were once considered magic, and they way they have appeared in mythology and history. Glossary included. Nicely labeled illustrations.

Bix, Cynthia Overbeck. HOW SEEDS TRAVEL. Lerner, 1982, $9.96, 48 p., 0-8225-9569-9. In order to sprout and grow, seeds often have to move away from their plants. Some seeds are moved from place to place by water, wind, and animals, and all traveling seeds have special features that help them take advantage of the free rides. Color photos trace the journeys of seeds from the maple tree, pussy willow, coconut palm, and dandelion. (NSTA Outstanding Book 1982)

Carle, Eric. THE TINY SEED. Simon & Schuster, 1987, $16.00, unp., 0-887-08015-4. Carried by the wind, the tiny seed, along with other bigger seeds, travels over the world. Some of the seeds are burned by the sun, some are eaten by birds, and some fall into the sea. Even those landing in fertile soil are in danger - one is
stepped on, one is picked. Meanwhile, the little seed grows unnoticed. Eric Carle's books aren't without philosophical message - this one concerns perseverance. Illustrated in color paper collage.

**Gelman, Rita Golden. RICE IS LIFE.** Holt, 2000, $14.36, 28 p., 0-8050-5719-6. Rice is the center of the Balinese culture - their lives revolve around tending the sawah, or rice field and all depend on rice for nourishment three meals each day. The planting, cultivating, and harvesting of rice is told in short, lyrical poems and factual pieces. The illustrations are warm and add cultural interest to the text.

**Gibbons, Gail. FROM SEED TO PLANT.** Holiday House, 1991, $15.95, unp., 0-82340872-8. In simple, clear language accompanied by colorful, easily-understood illustrations, Gibbons presents the parts of a flower, means of pollination, development and dissemination of seeds, and germination and growth of the resulting plant. Well-illustrated information provides step-by-step directions for a project - growing bean plants.

**Gibbons, Gail. THE PUMPKIN BOOK.** Holiday House, 1999, $16.10, 32 p., 0-8234-1465-5. From seed to vine and blossom to table, Gibbons traces the growth of the pumpkin. The first part of the book depicts the complicated process of growing a pumpkin from seed, including an explanation of the role of male pumpkin flowers in the pollination process. A page of interesting facts about the history of pumpkins, their nutritional value, pollination, and instructions for drying seeds to eat is appended. The bold, clear watercolor illustrations and concise, scientific text combine to make an excellent resource.

**Heinz, Brian J., BUTTERNUT HOLLOW POND.** Millbrook Press, 2001, $15.95, 32 p., 0-7613-1325-7. The reader explores the interdependence of organisms in a pond with particular emphasis on food webs. Excitement builds as an animal quickly changes its role from hunter to hunted. Through text and watercolor illustration, the reader develops an appreciation of ecology and the environment. (NSTA Outstanding Book 2001)

**Himmelman, John. A SALAMANDER'S LIFE.** Childrens Press, 1998, $10.36, 32 p., 0-516-26355-2. Illustrations and simple text follow a salamander through its life cycle from larva in a pond through winter hibernation to spring mating. The spotted salamander is highlighted in this text.

**Himmelman, John. A SLUG'S LIFE.** Childrens Press, 1998, $10.36, 32 p., 0-516-26356-0. Illustrations and simple text follow a slug (Limax) through its life cycle.


**Hipp, Andrew. THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE SNAIL.** PowerKids Press, 2002, $13.95, 24 p., 0-8239-5871-X. Photographs and text follow the life cycle of the snail from...
hatching to adulthood. Information is provided on how the snail mates, lays eggs, and grows its shell.

**Jordan, Helene J. NOW A SEED GROWS.** HarperCollins, 1992, $4.95, unp., 0-06-445107-0. In this selection from the *Let's Read-and-Find Out* science series, clearly written instructions and illustrations describe the planting and growth of bean plants from seeds.

**Kellogg, Steven. JOHNNY APPLESEED.** Morrow, 1988, $15.95, unp. 0-688-06418-3. Kellogg retells the tale of John Chapman, better known as the legendary and mythic hero Johnny Appleseed, who long ago planted apple trees in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. Kellogg's humorous illustrations perfectly complement the story of this man who planted and glorified one of America's favorite fruits.

**Legg, Gerald. FROM SEED TO SUNFLOWER.** Watts, 1998, $20.00, 29 p., 0-531-14492-5. In simple text and bold illustration, the germination, growth, flowering, pollination, and seed dispersal of the sunflower are covered. Following the main text, there are three pages of sunflower words, facts, plus a brief index.

**Maurska, Edward J. SALAMANDERS.** Child's World, 1997, $22.79, 32 p., 1-56766-273-0. Excellent full-page photographs and simple one or two paragraph text discuss types of salamanders, their habitats, protective coloration, defenses, food, and life cycle.

**Morgan, Sally. SLUGS AND SNAILS.** Creative Editions, 2000, $16.98, 32 p., 1-929298-81-1. As a part of the *MiniBeasts* series, Morgan describes slugs and snails in their natural habitats, with information on how to observe these creatures without harming them.

**Morrison, George. POND.** Houghton Mifflin, 2002, $16.00, 32 p., 0-618-10271-X. Changes and activities that occur over days and weeks throughout the seasons in, on, and around a pond are described. Through the narrative and illustration the reader observes interaction of thriving plants and animals. Insets provide additional detail about these plants and animals, the seasons, and how a pond is formed. (NSTA Outstanding Book 2002)

**Murray, Peter. SNAILS.** Child's World, 1998, $17.95, 32 p., 1-56766-382-6. The value of this book is in the full-page photographs which accompany the text. The author introduces the physical and behavioral characteristics of the snail including method of locomotion, habitat, diet, life cycle, defense mechanism, and natural enemies.

**Pascoe, Elaine. SNAILS AND SLUGS.** Blackbirch Press, 1999, $21.95, 48 p., 1-56711-181-5. The physical characteristics, reproduction processes, habitats, and metamorphoses of snails and slugs is described. Instructions for related hands-on science projects, an index and bibliographical references are included.
Pratt-Serafini, Kristen Joy. SALAMANDER RAIN: A LAKE & POND JOURNAL. Dawn Publications, 2002, $16.95, 32 p., 1-58469-018-6. (paperback $7.95, 1-58469-017-8) Bold illustrations and journal notes, maps, clips from news articles, and fun tidbits provide a brilliant model for student journals. The story describes major seasonal changes that occur in a temperate pond community. (NSTA Outstanding Book 2002)

Rice, David L. LIFETIMES. Dawn Publications, 1997, $7.95, unp., 1-883220-59-9. (hardback $16.95, 1-883220-58-0.) The theme of this unusual book is "all life is important on our planet Earth." The author provides information about the lifespan of the mayfly's one day, a butterfly's one month, on through other plants and animals including that of the human. For each lifetime depicted, a moral is drawn and suggestions for action or discussion are included.

Richards, Jean. A FRUIT IS A SUITCASE FOR SEEDS. Millbrook Press, 2002, $16.42, 32 p., 0-7613-1622-1. Richards' carefully worded information provides an excellent introduction to seeds, their purpose, and growth. This cleverly presented book can be used as a discussion starter, a prelude to planting seeds, or in preparation for dissecting fruits and vegetables to find the seeds inside.

Schaefer, Lola. CRAYFISH. Heinemann, 2002, $12.95, 24 p., 1-58810-513-X. Through simple text and outstanding photographs, readers are introduced to crayfish with a focus on their physical characteristics, habitat, diet, and activities.

Schaefer, Lola. PICK, PULL, SNAP: WHERE ONCE A FLOWER BLOOMED. Greenwillow, 2003, $16.00, unp., 0-688-17834-0. This is an imaginative way to look at how raspberries, peanuts, corn and other foods are produced as various plants flower, create seeds and finally bear fruit. How these foods are picked is an interesting part of the text. Although quite simple, the book is nicely illustrated with fold-out triple page spreads.

Simon, Seymour. PETS IN A JAR: COLLECTING AND CARING FOR SMALL WILD ANIMALS. Puffin Books, 1979, $10.96, 95 p., 0-14-049186-4. Children are always asking for information about the housing and care of small animals. Pages 30 to 33 provide such information about the Physa, or common pond snail. Also included in this text is information on caring for salamanders (newts), toads, and tadpoles. Simon does not encourage collection of these small animals, but offers solid suggestions for building habitats and providing food for them.

Stevens, Janet. TOPS & BOTTOMS. Harcourt, 1995, $16.00, unp., 0-15-292851-0. A lazy bear is outwitted by a clever hare in a battle of wits concerning vegetables that grow about the ground and those that grow below. The telling of this tale-with-a-twist is greatly enhanced by the colorful, large, very humorous illustrations.