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Egg: Nature's Perfect Package



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Synopsis

Hatching a plan for survival isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t always easy in the wild. And how animals lay, protect, and even use each other's eggs as a food source help reveal the life cycle of the natural world. Eggs come in all shapes and sizes. The ostrichÃ¢â ¬â„¢s is the largest, but some are so small, you need a microscope to spot them. Animals hide them and disguise them in smart and surprising ways, too. Some abandon their eggs, while others protect them fiercely and carry them wherever they go. There are as many kinds of eggs as there are animals that depend on them, because in the animal kingdom, the fight for survival begins with the simple, but extraordinary, egg.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1050 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (March 3, 2015)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #94,651 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Easter #73 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology #76 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Animals > Baby Animals

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

View larger A Look Inside How the Book Was Made In some ways, the egg is the perfect subject for a non-fiction picture book. In one neat, often colorful, sometimes surprisingly-shaped package, the egg provides an introduction to animal reproduction, animal architecture, unusual defensive strategies, predation, parenting behavior, evolution, and more. But rather than taking an overview and trying to explain all the important aspects of eggdom, Egg focuses on the extremes of size and form. This includes the ways and places eggs are laid, egg quantities, the ways eggs are protected, and the sometimes surprising ways that eggs become another animalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s dinner. This is a look inside the creation of this book from Steve Jenkins.

Researching and Sketching: The Start of the Process View larger View larger View larger Observing the Subjects: Research We read books about eggs ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • lots of books. Some were books for children, some for adult readers. We also did research on the internet. And we visited zoos and natural history museums, taking notes and photos of anything related to animal eggs. We collected information and images from all of these sources, then made small prints of the eggs we were thinking of using in the book. Putting Ideas to Paper - Thumbnail Sketching Our books begin with pages of little sketches known as thumbnails. These sketches are quick and rough, which makes it easy to try out a lot of ideas in a short time. We often make dozens of thumbnail layouts for a book, experimenting with different layouts and sequences. Finished sketches of each subject serve as templates for the final illustrations. Writing It Out - Composing the Text The text for Egg began as a series of lists and notes written by hand in a notebook. These jottings evolved into rough text, also written by hand. I prefer this medium to the computer at the beginning of the writing process. Rough text on a screen looks too finished, and I find it difficult to throw ideas out and start over. Eventually, I do type the text into a computer program, print it out, and edit it by hand. Then the text goes to our editor, who makes comments and corrects spelling and grammar. By the time the text is finalized, itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s been through a dozen or more drafts.

Creating the Art - From Start to Finish! View larger View larger View larger Step 1: Make a Sketch The illustrations in Egg are cut-and-torn paper collage, but they start out as a pencil sketch. This sketch will be used as a template for cutting out the pieces of color paper, which will be assembled into a final illustration. Step 2: Choose the Right Paper Now itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s time to pick the papers IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll use in my collage. These are a few of the papers for the image of a chicken hatching. Step 3: Voila! Final Art HereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s the final illustration.

From Art to Production - The Final Stage View larger View larger View larger Inputting Illustrations Into the Layout. We designed the book using InDesign, a computer desktop publishing program. The illustrations are scanned and placed on the pages and the text is copied from a manuscript and added to the layout. The finished file is called a digital mechanical. Then we print out each page on a color printer. The printouts are trimmed, folded, and bound into a dummy ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • a handmade book that shows us how the finished volume is

going to look. Creating the Mechanical The final digital file with all images and text in place ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • the mechanical ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • is delivered to the publisher. There an art director and copy editor check it over, then send it to the printer. The illustrations are converted into a pattern of tiny dots that are either cyan (blue), magenta (pink), yellow, or black. These dots combine to make all of the colors and detail in a printed illustration. Sheets of paper are passed through a large printing press, where the four colors are laid down one at a time. Finally, the sheets are put in order, bound together, and a cover is attached. A Book is Made! A little more than two years after starting work on the book, we get our first finished copy of Egg.

Gr 2Ã¢â ¬â œ4Ã¢â ¬â •Jenkins and Page present a collection of facts about animals and their eggs. The layout is divided into spreads that present a different topic ("Where should I lay my eggs?" "Egg Packaging") in an introductory paragraph. That's followed by several examples ("Incubation" describes the male emperor penguin, which keeps eggs warm in a brood pouch), accompanied by beautiful illustrations rendered in Jenkins's trademark cut-and-torn paper collages, scattered across the page, leaving the copious amount of white space characteristic of this team's style. Some cases tend toward the grotesque (readers learn that the spider wasp stings a spider, lays her eggs on its body, and leaves it as food for her hatchlings), but all are presented in a purely scientific, factual tone. A diagram at the beginning of the book gives readers a look at the actual sizes of different eggs (a tarantula's, a leopard frog's, a scorpion fish's). The work concludes with cross-sectional diagrams of chicken and alligator eggs, showing the interior at different stages of development. There's also a list of very brief facts about each of the animals pictured. VERDICT Like Jenkins and Page's other works, this delightful purchase combines big, bold illustrations with intriguing science. A solid addition to the 590s.Ã¢â ¬â •Jill Ratzan, I. L. Peretz Community Jewish School, Somerset, NJ

"Created from cut and torn papers with interesting coloration and textures, Jenkins' distinctive illustrations show up well against the white backgrounds. This intriguing presentation will be an asset to many kindergarten and primary-grade classes."Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist "Appealing, accessible, and accurate, this is another admirable creation."Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus "Like Jenkins and Page's other works, this delightful purchase combines big, bold illustrations with intriguing science.Ã¢â ¬â •School Library Journal Ã Â

Fascinating illustrations, packed with bits of information all over the pages. 4th graders in my

classroom love it.

Great for eighth graders

Love this book!!!

What fantastic drawings. What a great introduction to reproduction for kids.

Another excellent book w/ Steve Jenkins attention to detail.

Perhaps a little too factual for the 2-4 year old I got this as an Easter present for

Summary: From the royal albatross, who lays one egg every two years and watches over it for almost three months, to the fish tapeworm, who lays over seven billion eggs in its 20-year life, many animals lay eggs. This book takes a look at where and how animals lay eggs, carry and protect them, and get out of the eggs when itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s time for them to hatch. Egg sizes are compared with pictures showing actual sizes of all kinds of eggs, and cutaway pictures show how a chicken and alligator develop over the entire incubation period. The information is given in short snippets, several on a page, with each accompanied by a cut-paper illustration.Pros: This husband-and-wife team may be my favorite nonfiction author and illustrator. They have a real knack for finding fascinating facts about the animal world and presenting them in a way that sustains interest throughout the book. And the illustrations are phenomenal. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s almost incomprehensible how Steve Jenkins is able to get the level of detail into each picture using cut and torn paper. Check out ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“A Look Inside How This Book Was MadeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• on and the short video on JenkinsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ webpage (http://www.stevejenkinsbooks.com/making_books.html) to learn more about his artistic process.Cons: Reading this book right before breakfast kind of put me off my scrambled eggs.

This is a GREAT book. My only reason for four stars instead of five is that the book description says it is for age 4 - 7 or preschool to 3rd grade. I think it is best for ages 7 - 9. If you’re looking for books about eggs for 3 - 5 year olds, some much more age appropriate texts are:Ã Â Guess What Is Growing Inside This EggÃ Â orÃ Â Eggs, 1, 2, 3: Who Will The Babies Be?Ã Â or maybeÃ Â A Nest Full of Eggs (Let’s-Read-and-Find-Out Science, Stage 1)Ã Â for a five year old.

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