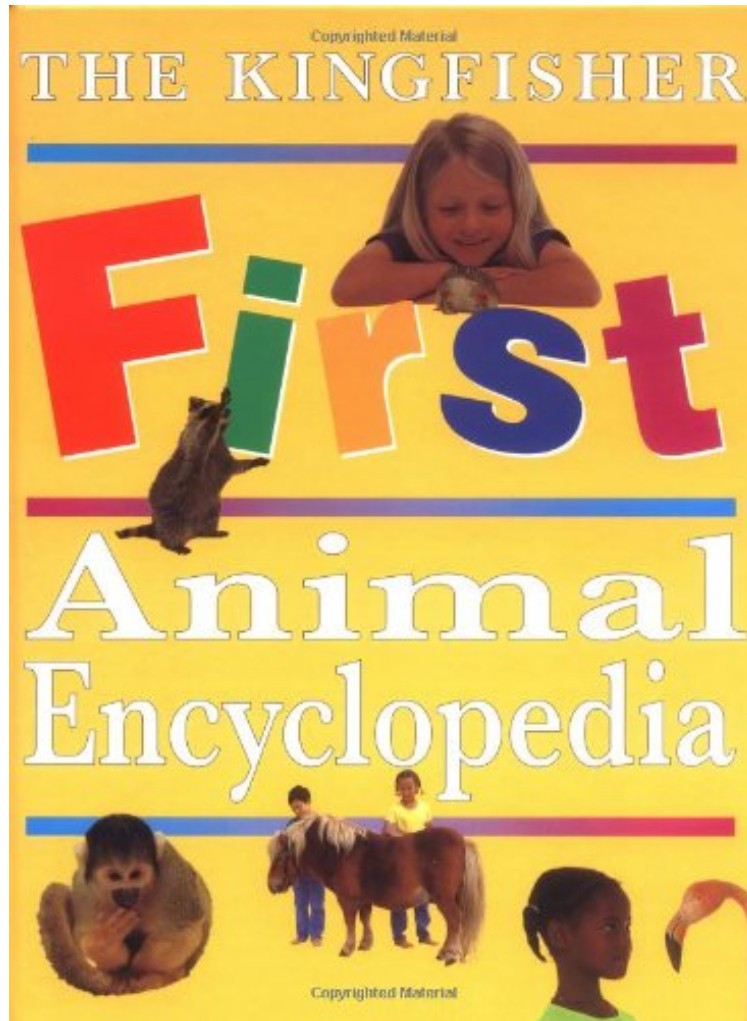


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John Farndon, Jon Kirkwood

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Witness the lightning-like dart of the chameleon's sticky tongue or the devious devices of the trap-door spider! The Kingfisher First Animal Encyclopedia is a valuable addition to the Kingfisher First Reference series and the perfect introduction to the enduringly popular subject of both wild and domestic animals. Detailed, full color illustrations and photographs present animals in a variety of settings -- in their natural habitats, hunting prey, feeding offspring, or engaging in other types of typical behavior. Photographs of children interacting with animals and a variety of clearly-explained activities provide examples of animal behavior or physiology and make this an exceptionally child-friendly book. Special Features: Hands-on activities to reinforce learning. Clear, simple text is inviting and accessible to five- and six-year-old children. Fact boxes and detailed captions provide older children with in-depth information. Simple alphabetical arrangement. Bold, clear headwords. Cross-references. Index and glossary.

From Booklist This slim encyclopedia is aimed at satisfying the very young reader's first attempt at animal research. The 155 entries are arranged in alphabetical order, from aardvark to zebra, and are illustrated with just fewer than 1,000 color pictures, including some photographs. The animals are those most likely to be encountered by young children in picture books, zoos, or their own backyards. There are also entries for larger groups (baby animal, mammal, reptile) and for some topics related to animal behavior, such as communication and migration. Each topic is covered in one page, with text consisting of a brief description of the animal in bold type, and captions for each picture. The print size is readable and appealing to the elementary user. For some animals, such as butterfly and frog, an illustration of the life cycle is provided, with numbers to help students see the various stages in sequence. Each page includes "Find Out More," which functions as a see also reference. Fact boxes contain added facts and figures, but are missing for some animals. Parents, teachers, and librarians will welcome step-by-step activities and projects that are included with animal topics that lend themselves to arts-and-crafts projects. A glossary and index add value to the volume as a reference tool. Similarly-named volumes, *The Kingfisher First Encyclopedia of Animals* (1994), with 400 entries, and *The Kingfisher Illustrated Encyclopedia of Animals* [RBB O 15 92], covering more than 2,000 animals, are geared toward older children. Children ages five through eight will have a visual adventure with this new Kingfisher volume, which will answer the basic requirements of animal reports, though further research may be required on most animals. Recommended for school and public libraries. About the Author Since 1992. Kingfisher children's books and Larousse reference titles originating in the U.K. and France that are edited/co-published for the North American market. Now a sales division of Houghton Mifflin Company.