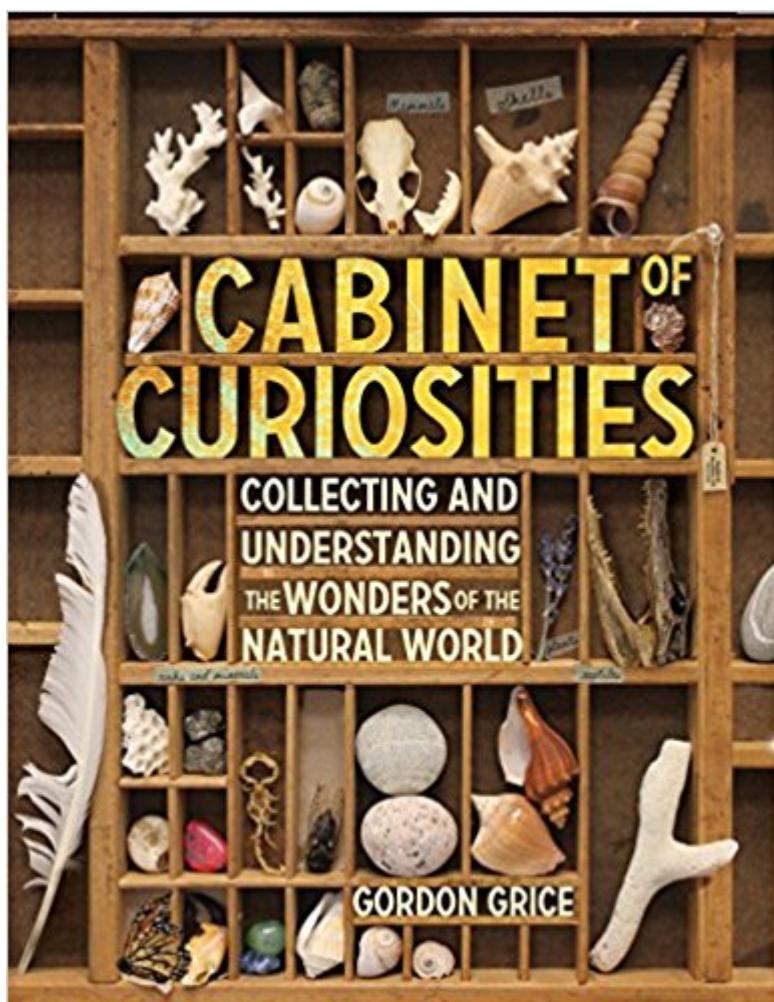


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Cabinet Of Curiosities: Collecting And Understanding The Wonders Of The Natural World



Synopsis

Exactly the book for every young explorer who loves finding stuff in nature and bringing it home. Cabinet of Curiosities is a lavishly illustrated introduction to the wonders of natural history and the joys of being an amateur scientist and collector. Nature writer Gordon Grice, who started his first cabinet of curiosities at age six when he found a skunk's skull, explains how scientists classify all living things through the Linnaeus system; how to tell real gold from fool's gold; how to preserve butterflies, crab shells, feathers, a robin's egg, spider specimens, and honeycombs; how to identify seashells; the difference between antlers and horns; how to read animal tracks. And then, what to do with your specimens, including how to build a cabinet of curiosities out of common household objects, like a desk organizer or a box for fishing tackle.

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Book Information

Hardcover: 200 pages

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Age Range: 8 - 18 years

Grade Level: 3 - 12

Customer Reviews

Gordon Grice is a nature writer and author of *The Red Hourglass: Lives of the Predators and Deadly Kingdom: The Book of Dangerous Animals*. His articles about wildlife and biology have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, and *Discover*. He lives in Wisconsin and online at gordongrice.com.

My 6 year old is an advanced reader and an avid learner, and he loves the format of this book. He can learn about whatever natural topic he chooses, a few pages or paragraphs at a time. The content touches on subjects in brief, so he doesn't have time to get bored, but also somewhat in depth. If you have a budding young scientist this seems like a good introduction. It isn't a true scientific textbook or a stuffy reference book, but the age range this seems to be geared towards (maybe elementary school age) would be very bored with a standard textbook about this stuff, imo. If my son has any other questions about what he's reading about, I look up the answers on a reference site and we talk about it. Example from the book, to give a hint about style : "An alligator's skull has one simple kind of teeth. These teeth can't do any of the special jobs mammal teeth can. They can't take a bite out of an apple, like a person can. They can't shear off a big chunk of flesh, like a carnivore can. They can't grind down plants, like a cow does. You might expect an alligator to have sharp teeth, but it doesn't. Its teeth are sharp enough to hold on to prey, but not nearly as sharp as a fox's or skunk's. They're more like blunt cones. Where to find : American alligators can be found in swamps, lakes, and rivers all along the southeastern US, and west to the southern tip of Texas".

This book is full of all kinds of useful information. Lots of great pictures. Lots of historical information. Plus instructions and hints on finding, collecting, and making your own collection of almost anything. This would be a great gift for a young person interested in nature.

great overview of the cabinetry, its categories and well written.

Espectacular

Fast shipping and great book!

Terrific illustrations and engaging for young and old.

Given to a 12 year old for his birthday. He later declared it as his favorite book.

I purchased this as an inexpensive e-book, figuring that my 8-year-old son might get 2 dollars' worth of interest out of it. As I looked at the e-version, I found it so well-written, nicely photographed, and accessible without being patronizing in tone, that I am going to buy a hard copy to give as a Christmas gift instead, along with a promise to go flea-market hunting for a starter cabinet. It's very inviting and has just enough scientific information to spur further research, along with very helpful tips about how to keep your found treasures from smelling up your collection and reminders to warn your family members about your specimens sharing freezer space with the ice cream. Perfect for encouraging independent rambles outside and close observation of the natural world.

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