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Grade-Level Science Books – Grade 4 Leveling Chart

| Book Title | Summary | Level |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------|
| Unit A | | |
| It's Alive | While a boy takes care of his brother's pet slug, he learns a lesson in what it means to identify something as a living thing. Students will explore differences between living and nonliving things as well as to care and show respect for living things. | P |
| Pack Rat | Students are introduced to the small, nocturnal pack rat that lives in the desert. They will learn its behaviors, lifestyle, and habitat. The pack rat makes its home under the ground. Students will come to understand the reasons the animal might prefer this type of home in the harsh desert. | P |
| Discovering the Secrets of Nature | Using special camera techniques gives naturalists a chance to observe in great detail as hummingbirds and insects visit flowers and watch flowers blossom and plants grow. | S |
| Unit B | | |
| The Polar Bear and the Jaguar | This book introduces the biomes of the Arctic and tropical rain forests by discussing the top predators of each one – the polar bear and the jaguar. Students explore the food webs in each biome. | P |
| Why Tortoise has a Shell | Tortoise had a problem – she was so slow that she was always getting hurt. She went to ask Lion to make her able to run, climb, slither, or fly. However, Lion had an idea that was even better, a shell. | Q |
| Penguins: Birds That Swim | Penguins are very unusual birds. They live in the Antarctic or at the equator, swim instead of fly, and are adapted to their environments in many interesting ways. | P |
| Unit C | | |
| Rocks Don't Just Sit There | Rocks don't just lie around doing nothing – they are constantly changing and going through what is called a rock cycle. Students will learn the differences between igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rock, and explore the workings of volcanoes through the ages. | Q |
| Do You Feel Earth Moving? | Students learn what it would be like to be a geologist and answer the question “ How do they know that?” about topics such as changes of Earth's surface – the work of weathering and erosion, as well as of Earth's interior forces. | Q |
| Laura and the Great Quake | Two cousins (one in Italy, one in San Francisco) share experiences by e-mail. One cousin shares the experience of being in an earthquake in Assisi, and the work of saving its famous art treasures. | P |
| Unit D | | |
| The Water Watchers | While giving their dog a bath, two boys learn about the water cycle from a neighbor as well as about other topics such as water purification, irrigation, and sewage | R |

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| | treatment. | |
| Everyone Always Complains About the Weather | After 20 days of 100-degree weather, Regina decides to ask her friend Wendy to work together to change the weather. Will their weather machines actually bring cooler weather? | O |
| Sylvia Earle: She's in Deep Water | Sylvia Earle knew she would study underwater life from the time she was a child. She has helped us learn about the sea and its inhabitants and has worked to preserve the ocean environment. | P |
| Unit E | | |
| Big & Small | Students learn about the largest and smallest things they can possibly observe. | Q |
| A Chemist in the Kitchen: Experiments You Can Do At Home | A fun hands-on guide to scientific adventure, this book explores such questions as how the wood in a pencil is different from the wood in paper. Safe and easy experiments are a part of the discovery process. | T |
| The Angel Food Cake Disaster | When two children spend time with their grandmother, they discover what is involved in making a cake – separating an egg and mixing ingredients. Then a kitchen “disaster” happens and the angel food cake will have to be another kind of cake. | S |
| Unit F | | |
| How the Lever Changed the World | This is a clear and simple look at one of the most useful tools ever invented – the lever. Explore how it works, how it was invented, and the different ways in which it is used. | R |
| Magnets Everywhere! | This book surveys the many uses of magnets, from their use in simple toys and tools, as well as in complex processes such as eye surgery and computer data storage. | Q |
| The Future is Now | What was once a dream is now reality, computers that can store information and retrieve it in split seconds, made possible by electricity and tiny electrical circuits. | R |