

The cover features a detailed illustration of a red-headed bird, possibly a nuthatch, perched on a branch. The bird has a reddish-brown head and back with a white breast speckled with red dots. The background is a light beige color with a pattern of small white dots. Various plants and butterflies are scattered throughout the scene. The title 'Backyard Nature Lessons' is written in a large, elegant, teal-colored serif font. Below the title, the subtitle 'Science in the Living World' is written in a smaller, red, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a dark brown horizontal band contains the text 'Year 3' in a large, white, serif font, and 'My Homeschool' in a smaller, red, sans-serif font below it.

Backyard Nature Lessons

Science in the Living World

Year 3

My Homeschool

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EDITOR'S NOTE

I'm so pleased to be able to offer this book as a part of the My Homeschool Year 3 Curriculum. It is a charming little science story book that shares the secret lives of insects through the conversations of two children and their parents.

Someone once said that Nature is God's second book and as you read through these pages there are many examples in nature that remind us how amazing this world really is! In most cases, after you read the story, a field trip to find these bugs and insects only requires you to step out into a nearby garden.

These stories will also cover the key ideas that are part of the Australian Curriculum for living world science in Year 3 (Stage 2 in NSW) which includes: classification, life cycles and survival of living things.

This ebook includes original content and revised chapters from:

- Wonderful World by Emery Lewis Howe
- Insect Life by Arabella Buckley

In addition to this book your child will also complete pages from *My Backyard Nature Journal*. This can be found in the Virtual Cupboard of your Year 3 course. We also have *Backyard Nature Links* with fascinating videos and additional information for children to explore.

Enjoy!

Michelle Morrow

LESSON 1: LET'S EXPLORE

To the boys and girls who read this book

THESE pages have been written for your pleasure and to help you know and enjoy the world about you. You may think of this book, if you wish, as a passport that allows you to travel and come to know many new friends. Most boys and girls love to go on journeys; they feel that far too little opportunity for travel is theirs. They read of marvels in many lands, and wish to go "these wonders to behold." Here is one way in which you may travel in new lands that lie near at hand; Here you may discover things as wonderful as in places far away.

If you object, and say that one cannot travel far on foot, or find interesting wonders near at home, let me remind you of what one of our own great men once said. He wrote that one could find in his own dooryard, no matter where this might be, as great marvels as can be seen anywhere, if only he had the eyes to see them! It is quite certain that many travellers in lands far off do not have seeing eyes, and come home from long journeys with little gain. Which would you choose to be, a person staying near home with a seeing eye, or one going a long distance with blind eyes?

I said at the beginning that you might think of this book as a passport. You know travellers in foreign countries need a paper called a passport to gain entrance into the lands of other peoples. These pages will show the way to enter into some territories that are strange to you. I hope they will help you to find out just how to conduct yourself so that you will be pleasing to the inhabitants whom you are visiting. Perhaps they will help you to know and understand them all a little better.

There is another way in which you may think of this book. You may call it, if you please, a letter of introduction. If you are going to a new place, some friend may give you a letter to introduce you to someone who lives there. The letter does not tell you about the person; it just introduces you; it starts the acquaintance for you. You must do the rest of the getting acquainted yourself.

You must learn for yourself what the stranger likes, how he lives, what things he has to teach you or show you, and what work he does. This book will introduce you to some creatures whom you may know slightly, but most of the getting really acquainted with them is left to you. This will be the best part of what the book does for you.

Sometimes the stories will give the facts for you to see with your own eyes, and to think through by yourself. Sometimes you will see the wonders of God's world through the eyes of a boy and a girl, Don and Ruth Harris.

Don and Ruth are just like you, wide awake, thinking, interested, asking questions, and trying to find out all sorts of new things. You will, I hope, like to find out things with them.

As you use the book, do not be like the travellers of whom I spoke: do not shut your eyes; do not shut even one eye! Do not feel sure you have found out all there is to know when you have looked very sharply with your two real eyes at anything whatever! Put your mind's eyes at work, and keep them busy! Ask questions when you need to ask them. Most of all, think, and then think, and then THINK again! Try to see how one story fits into another. Try to see how one fact in God's world fits, not into one other fact, but into all other facts. You may not see just how this is at first, but the more you think and the more you find out, the more you will be sure that this is true.

For an illustration: Perhaps you ate a fine ripe peach for lunch today. After you have read the seeds story, you will think that the peach came to you partly because it did its seed up in such an attractive package, and you may suppose that you have learned all this book has to tell you of the peach. Let me set you a question or two!

How did the earthworms help the peach you ate?

Do you think it possible that the birds had anything to do with your peach?

Could wombats, dogs, or horses, have helped grow the peach?

Did ants, or bees, or butterflies, have any share in the work? Suggest a way in which an old glacier may have helped.

Too many questions, do you say? No, no! It is questions that make study interesting. It is by searching for the answers to questions that you learn new facts of interest and use. So set yourself to work; enjoy your book; but, better, enjoy the wonders of your own back yard; get acquainted with the birds and the insects about you. Learn of the animal friends that live near you. Look to the skies, and get to know the stars by name. Seek in the common materials around you for we wonder stories; and you will find them on everywhere.

You will indeed "speak to the earth, and it shall teach you," for you will find that "in all the land the hand of the Lord hath wrought."

Something to do:

1. Complete your My Backyard Nature Journal page.