

# Unit of Inquiry Recommended Reading List

## How We Organize Ourselves

Below you will find a list of books related to the Unit of Inquiry, “How We Organize Ourselves”. Each book is related to the Central Idea. Included with each book title is a short summary. All titles are carried at the BCA2 Library unless otherwise indicated. This list is not exhaustive, but suggestions based on reviews and the librarian’s knowledge of children’s literature.

### Kindergarten

- Burton, Virginia Lee. *Katy and the Big Snow*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1971.
  - A classic children’s picture book about how a truck helps out the community after a blizzard. Includes a birds’ eye view of the neighborhood, and the roles everyone played during the clean-up.
- Ames, Michelle. *On the Job Series*. New York: PowerKids Press, 2010.
  - This book series is great to focus in on specific community helpers. Included in this series are titles on: Firefighters, Police Officers, Veterinarians, and Librarians.
- Hesselberth, Joyce. *Mapping Sam*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2018.
  - A lost cat traces his path through his community, illuminating forgotten corners. This book also discusses how to read a map.
- Elliott, David. *Henry’s Map*. New York: Philomel Books, 2013.
  - Henry is a very organized pig. He sets out to make a map of his untidy farm. This is a great picture book to explore how to make a map.
- Rabe, Tish. *There’s a Map on My Lap!* New York: Random House, 2002.
  - The Cat in the Hat teaches about cartography and the uses of different kinds of maps. This book is in the “Cat in the Hat’s Learning Library”.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

- Dillemath, PhD, Julie. *Camilla, Cartographer*. Washington, DC: Magination Press, 2019.
  - Camilla, a boar, and her friend, Parsley, a porcupine, find themselves lost after a huge snowfall. Camilla’s love of maps helps them find their way.
- Boothroyd, Jennifer. *Map My...series*. Minneapolis, MN: 2014.
  - A series of books written just for this age on how maps work for continents, countries, cities, etc.
- Sweeney, Joan. *Me on the Map*. New York: Crown, 1996.
  - A student explains how her house, street, town, city, etc. displays on a map.
- Mizielinska, Aleksandra. *Maps*. Somerville, MA: Big Picture Press, 2013.
  - An involved, but visually appealing book that includes amazing details. While this may be challenging for some 1<sup>st</sup> graders, all will be drawn to the illustrations.
- Ritchie, Scot. *Follow that Map! A First Look at Mapping Skills*. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2009.
  - Five friends are looking for their lost pets. In this structure the rest of the book outlines how to read and use maps.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

- Tarshis, Lauren. *I Survived...* series. New York: Scholastic, Asst. Dates.
  - Some of the books in this series are not natural disasters, but the rest are fictionalized accounts of children living through some modern and some historical natural disasters.
- Yomtov, Nel. *The Children's Blizzard of 1888*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publishing, 2017.
  - A story not often told about in American history, this book uses colorful pictures and pages to detail a blizzard that affected children while at school. This book is for second graders who read above their level.
- Van Gorp, Lynn. *Landforms*. Mankato, MN: Compass Point Books, 2009.
  - Earth's surface is always changing, and this book covers landforms and how they are changed through natural forces.
- Gibbons, Gail. *Tornadoes*. New York: Holiday House, 2009.
  - Gail Gibbons is a well-known legend and staple in the children's non-fiction world. Her titles always involve informative and fun text with wonderful illustrations.
- Magloff, Lisa. *DK Eyewonder: Volcanoes*. New York: DK Publishing, 2003.
  - From underwater explosions to red-hot rivers of lava, explore the danger and wonder of volcanoes. A visual plethora of all things volcano.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

- Gorman, Jacqueline Laks. *Know Your Government Series*. Pleasantville, NY: Weekly Reader, 2009.
  - This series of seven books is a great way for students to learn about different governmental positions. It includes: Congress, President, Vice-President, Judge, Mayor, Governor, & Elections.
- Bow, James. *What is the Executive Branch?* New York: Crabtree, 2013.
  - An introductory look at the executive branch of government. Includes a description of the departments contained within this branch of government.
- Bow, James. *What is the Legislative Branch?* New York: Crabtree, 2013.
  - An introductory look at the legislative branch of government. Includes a description of the departments within this branch, such as Congress, as well as debating and voting.
- Rodger, Ellen. *What is the Judicial Branch?* New York: Crabtree, 2013.
  - An introduction to the judicial branch of government. It includes a description of the justice system, the Supreme Court, trials and more.
- Wyatt, Valerie. *How to Build Your Own Country*. Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press, 2009.
  - This book is a great opportunity for your higher readers to interact with the idea of government. It teaches about nation building and takes readers through history to look at historical events that shaped nations.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Ventura, Marne. *Community Economics Series*. Minneapolis, MN: Cody Koala, 2019.
  - This series covers a wide variety of topics related to economics in an easy-to-read format. Topics include: Needs and Wants, Conserving Resources, Goods and Services, Government and Community, and Supply and Demand.
- Gaertner, Meg. *Spending and Saving Money*. Minneapolis, MN: Cody Koala, 2019.
  - Another book in the “Community Economics Series”. The author discusses the concept of money; when to save and when to spend.
- Thompson, Gare. *What is Importing and Exporting?* St. Catharines, ON: Crabtree, 2010.
  - Using photographs and text the author explains a difficult topic in an understandable manner. It covers a wide variety of subjects within the broader topic.
- Adler, David. *Money Madness*. New York: Holiday House, 2009.
  - This brightly illustrated picture book introduces the concept of money. The author looks at the development of money, its many forms, and focuses on the purpose of money.
- Kawa, Katie. *Milton Hershey and the Chocolate Industry*. New York: PowerKids Press, 2017.
  - Hershey is a well-known name in the chocolate industry. This biography takes a look at the man behind the chocolate bar.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Creech, Sharon. *Love That Dog*. New York: Harper Trophy, 2001.
  - This Newbery book can be used to discuss Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. A young boy, who has experienced the loss of a pet, discovers how to express himself through the medium of poetry.
- Wang, Andrea. *Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando*. New York: Little Bee Books, 2019.
  - This picture book illustrates how Momofuku Ando invented instant ramen. The author details the motivation for the idea, the long process of development, and the realized success.
- Applegate, K.A. *Crenshaw*. New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2015.
  - This book is about a family who has problems meeting Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs and how that affects a boy just going into 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Kahan, Alex. *Entrepreneurship: Create Your Own Business with 25 Projects*. White River Junction, Vermont, 2014.
  - Designed to inspire children to create their own businesses, this book includes some comic strips, charts, a glossary, and practical skills. A good introduction to business.
- Mara, Will. *American Entrepreneurship*. New York: Children’s Press, 2014.
  - Presents an introduction to entrepreneurship, discussing how to take an idea and make it a success, how different people changed the world with their businesses and more.