

Unit of Inquiry Recommended Reading List

Where We Are in Place and Time

Below you will find a list of books related to the Unit of Inquiry, “Where We Are in Place and Time”. 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

- Agee, Jon. *Life on Mars*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2017.
 - A funny tale about an astronaut who is bringing cake to the people who live on Mars. Yet he doesn’t find any (or does he?).
- Rabe, Trish. *There’s No Place Like Space*. New York: Random House, 2009.
 - A book series based on Dr. Seuss’s rhyming scheme and the Cat, from *The Cat In The Hat*, discuss our solar system.
- Nelson, Robin. *Day and Night*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2011.
 - An introductory book explaining why there is day and night. Includes simple language and pictures.
- Mitton, Jacqueline. *I See the Moon*. London: Frances Lincoln’s Children’s Books, 2011.
 - An introduction for early readers to the phases of the moon. The author uses animals from the around the world as she looks at how the moon is seen from different places.
- Rusch, Elizabeth. *The Mighty Mars Rovers: The Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2012.
 - This book tells the greatest space robot adventure of all time through the eyes--and heart--of Steven Squires, lead scientist on the mission, capturing the suspense and emotion felt during the adventures of the two tough rovers.

1st Grade

- Adamson, Ged. *Douglas, You’re a Genius!* New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2018.
 - Douglas and Nancy are faced with a mystery behind a very large wall. Each tries their own solution to figure out what is on the other side.
- St. George, Judith. *So You Want to be an Inventor?* New York: Philomel Books, 2002.
 - More of a challenge, this book has a wealth of information about famous inventors and inventions. Colorful illustrations still make this accessible to first graders.
- Kraft, Betsy Harvey. *The Fantastic Ferris Wheel*. New York: Christy Ottaviano Books, 2015.
 - How George Ferris built the Ferris wheel in under six months.
- Wallmark, Laurie. *Ada Lovelace and the Thinking Machine*. Berkley, CA: Creston Books, 2015.
 - Wonderfully illustrated book details the life of Ada Lovelace and how she invented the first computer programming language.

- Barton, Chris. *Whoosh! Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2016.
 - A biography of an engineer who worked at NASA, but in his heart, he is an inventor. His creation of the 'super-soaker' water gun was by accident. Students learn how difficult it can be to bring an invention to a successful ending. A great book that students can relate to.

2nd Grade

- Wilgus, Alison. *Flying Machines: How the Wright Brothers Soared*. New York: First Second, 2017.
 - Graphic novel that not only gives an overview of mankind's dream to fly, but it presents the facts well enough to still be interesting.
- Woolf, Alex. *You Wouldn't Want to Live Without Fire*. New York: Franklin Watts, 2015.
 - An extensive series this has numerous topics that relate to this unit, and some that do not. The one about fire fits the best; it is colorful, informative, and fun.
- Beaty, Andrea. *Rosie Revere and the Raucous Riveters*. New York: Amulet Books, 2018.
 - Based off the picture books series, this is a new series about engineering and inventions. The book itself is designed with graph paper and interesting illustrations to break up any overly wordy sections.
- Worth, Bonnie. *Oh the Things They Invented*. New York: Random House, 2015.
 - A book for reluctant readers follows Cat from Cat in the Hat as he looks at important inventions throughout history.
- Barretta, Gene. *Neo Leo*. New York: Henry Holt, 2009.
 - An easy introduction to Leonardo DaVinci and his illustrations of inventions that would take hundreds of years to happen.

3rd Grade

- O'Donoghue, Sean. *The Disaster of the Irish Potato Famine*. New York: The Rosen Publishing Group, 2016.
 - This is one book in a series entitled, "Spotlight on Immigration and Migration". In a concise and easy-to-read format, the author touches on the cause of the famine and the resulting large number of Irish who emigrated to America.
- Minden, Cecilia. *How to Write a Biography*. Ann Arbor, MI: Cherry Lake Publishing, 2013.
 - Details how to turn interesting stories from people who have lived into a biography.
- Levine, Ellen. *If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island*. New York: Scholastic, 1993.
 - Using a question and answer format, this book gives a thorough explanation of the immigrants' experience at Ellis Island.
- Durbin, William. *My Name Is America: The Journal of Otto Peltonen*. New York: Scholastic, 2000.
 - This book series is an excellent way for students to gain a deeper understanding of what life was like for a young person in early America. This book focuses on a Finnish immigrant in 1905. The author uses a diary format to relive one year in the life of the character. There are historical photos of Finland and America for students to see.
- Freedman, Russell. *Immigrant Kids*. New York: Puffing Books, 1995.

- The author has written many historical non-fiction books for children. He uses actual text and photographs from the late 1800's and early 1900's to chronicle the lives of immigrant kids. It includes home life and school. It is a great resource!

4th Grade

- Nelson, S.D. *Red Cloud: A Lakota Story of War and Surrender*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2017.
 - An unflinching account of the United States' invasion of American Indian land. This is a picture book, but the pictures, illustrations, and end notes include a wealth of information to give this one more substance than a normal picture book.
- Brown, Don. *The Great American Dust Bowl*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2013.
 - A graphic novel interpretation of this historic event. The author's illustrations capture the attention of readers while including important facts. This book helps students to understand the severity and how it caused many people to migrate.
- Kulling, Monica. *Ruby's Hope*. Salem, MA: Page Street Kids, 2019.
 - Though this is a picture book, it is a great way to bring to life the iconic photograph, "Migrant Mother". This photograph depicts the plight of Americans during one of the most devastating times in our history – the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression.
- Winters, Kay. *Voices From the Oregon Trail*. New York: Dial Books, 2014.
 - "An account of several families and individuals making the long and often dangerous trek across the United States from Missouri to the West Coast in the 1800s" (provided by the publisher).
- Willis, Nancy Carol. *Red Knot: A Shorebird's Incredible Journey*. Middletown, DE: Birdsong Books, 2006.
 - This book relates to the central idea of migration through a look at the amazing journey of this shorebird. The journey of 20,000 miles is depicted through text and beautiful illustrations. It's a great book to use to discuss the challenges that we all face in life.

5th Grade

- Assorted Authors. *Eyewitness Books series on Ancient Civilizations*. New York: DK Publishing, Assorted Dates.
 - Informative, colorful, and intriguing the layout in this series makes learning about ancient cultures a bit less intimidating for children.
- Homer. *The Odyssey*. Assorted publishers, assorted dates.
 - Perfect time to introduce a children's version of this classic tale. King County Library System has a recommended version, and BCA has another.
- O'Connor, George. *Olympians series*. New York: First Second, 2012.
 - More family friendly retelling of the Greek myths focusing on the gods and goddesses.
- Stuckey, Rachel. *Ancient Maya Inside Out*. New York: Crabtree Publishing Company, 2017.
 - Using artifacts this book investigates the Ancient Mayan culture.
- McGraw, Eloise Jarvis. *The Golden Goblet*. New York: Puffin Books, 1986, c 1961.

- This Newbery book is a great way for students to gain a deeper understanding of the culture of ancient Egypt through the eyes of Ranofer. It is an adventurous story that reveals the lifestyle and culture of the time.