

Smithsonian STEAM Readers

Grade 2



Teacher Created Materials takes great care to maintain the integrity of authentic informational texts while leveling them to make the texts accessible for all students. In this way, our content-area books provide rich informational reading experiences supported by robust lesson plans from which students can learn and be ready for the complexity of college and career level reading.

To preserve the authenticity of these reading experiences, it is crucial to maintain important academic and content vocabulary. To support leveled instruction, new and challenging terms are used repeatedly and defined in-text to promote understanding and retention.

The measures in this chart are for reference only, as books in Smithsonian STEAM Readers are not meant to match students' independent reading levels.

Note: Reading levels vary from program to program and do not correlate exactly.

Title of Reader	Lexile® Measure	Guided Reading Level	DRA Level	Early Intervention Equivalent	Word Count
Hatching a Chick	710L	O	20	18	1,385
Bones on Display	560L	P	28	24	1,779
Creating a Habitat	560L	O	28	24	1,592
Piecing Art Together	580L	N	20	17	1,374
Making Maps	570L	O	20	17	1,444
Living in Sunlight Extremes	560L	P	28	24	1,658
The Science of Gems	640L	P	24	19	1,350
Creative Machines	560L	P	28	24	1,607
Safe Cycling	580L	O	24	20	1,358
Growing Plants in Space	580L	P	28	24	1,708
Cooking Innovations	560L	Q	28	28	1,720
Staying Dry	550L	O	20	28	1,302
Dealing with Wildfires	570L	P	20	20	1,378
Protecting a Sinking City	590L	Q	28	28	1,742
Mimicking Nature	610L	Q	28	28	1,688

* These titles have been officially leveled using the F&P Text Level Gradient™ Leveling System.
B2017

Smithsonian STEAM Readers

Grade 3

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Raising Clouded Leopards	690L	R	34	25	2,212
Amphibian Rescue	660L	Q	34	25	2,199
Restoring Muddy Creek	700L	S	38	27	2,391
Making a Mummy	650L	W	30	23–24	2,221
Navigating at Sea	600L	W	34	25	2,286
Saving Culture from Disaster	610L	R	34	25	2,219
Underwater Training	660L	S	30	23–24	2,124
Botanical Illustration	660L	U	38	27	2,278
The Wright Brothers	680L	V	30	23–24	2,473
Taking Photos from Space	680L	V	38	27	2,540
Helping People See	600L	T	34	25	2,376
From Grass to Bridge	650L	V	38	27	2,571
Predicting Earthquakes	690L	U	38	27	2,610
Mapping the Milky Way	680L	U	38	27	2,408
Blue Crab Comeback	680L	S	38	27	2,445

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Smithsonian STEAM Readers

Grade 4



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Designing Butterfly Exhibits	680L	S	40	27	2,521
Organic Farming	710L	S	40	27	2,541
Saving the Arctic	700L	U	40	27	2,675
Powered by Steam	710L	V	40	27	2,495
The Culture of Calendars	730L	T	40	27	2,823
Conserving an Aircraft	730L	V	40	27	2,907
Rebuilding the Body	740L	V	40	27	2,934
Making Movies in Technicolor	710L	T	40	27	2,459
Selling More Snacks	720L	T	40	27	2,422
The Evolution of Space Suits	740L	T	40	27	2,772
Designing a Shuttle	710L	V	40	27	2,752
Electric Vehicles	770L	V	40	27	2,898
Exploring Volcanic Activity	650L	U	40	27	2,524
Tracking a Storm	730L	T	40	27	2,416
The Science of Waves and Surfboards	810L	W	40	27	2,461

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Smithsonian STEAM Readers

Grade 5



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To preserve the authenticity of these reading experiences, it is crucial to maintain important academic and content vocabulary. To support leveled instruction, new and challenging terms are used repeatedly and defined in-text to promote understanding and retention.

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Title of Reader	Lexile® Measure	Guided Reading Level	DRA Level	Early Intervention Equivalent	Word Count
Saving a Species	840L	S	50	28	3,161
Life in a Cube	780L	V	50	28	3,087
Saving Migratory Birds	820L	V	50	28	3,260
Digging Up Dinosaurs	810L	V	50	28	3,327
Inka Terraces	860L	V	50	28	3,164
Designing National Parks	800L	T	50	28	3,032
Living and Working in Space	820L	U	50	28	3,380
Making Music with Magnets	790L	W	50	28	2,945
Color-Changing Cephalopods	770L	W	50	28	2,813
Thomas Edison: Lighting a Revolution	720L	V	50	28	3,188
The Science of Glass	740L	X	50	28	3,366
The Art and Science of Skateboarding	820L	U	50	28	2,911
Guided by Stars	800L	W	50	28	3,197
Plant Invaders	780L	U	50	28	3,083
Making an Ocean Ecosystem	750L	U	50	28	3,201

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