

Motivating Young Minds

*The Best Kids' Magazines Turn
Natural Curiosity into Exceptional Knowledge*

Why is the sky blue? Where did the slaves buy tickets for the underground railroad? How small is an atom? Who was Einstein? What happened to the dinosaurs? When did women start voting? Kids are full of questions. No teacher (or parent) can supply all of the answers—but sidestepping their queries with a quick “look it up” is a sure way to quash most kids’ curiosity. Fortunately, there is an alternative to encyclopedias and textbooks: kids’ magazines.

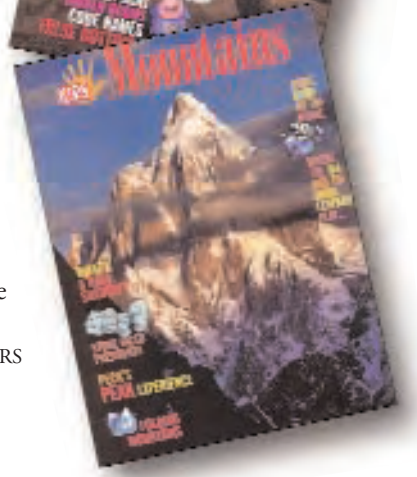
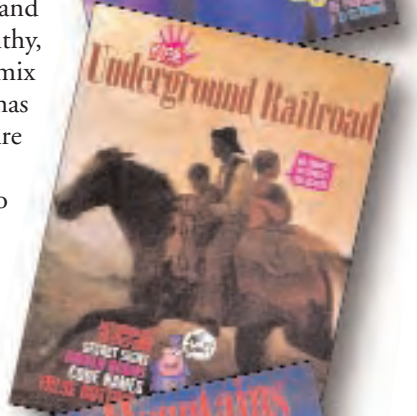
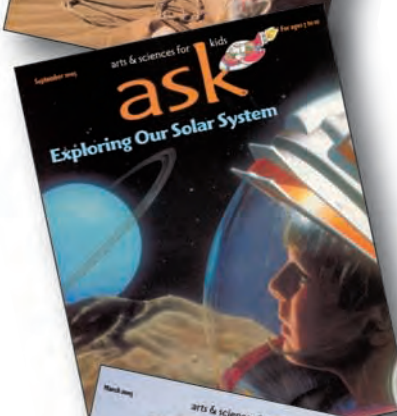
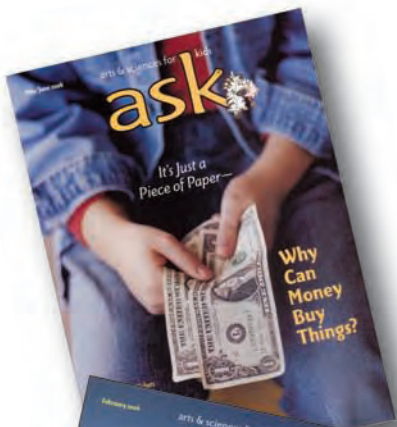
Many educational magazines written just for kids are well known—such as *National Geographic for Kids*, *Time for Kids*, and *Sesame Street Magazine*—but we’ve found a couple that aren’t as well known as they deserve to be: *ASK* and *Kids Discover*. *ASK* is a broad-ranging magazine for elementary school children. Recent issues have covered, for example, the solar system, deserts, how (and why) money works, the human body, how wild animals stay healthy, and volcanoes. It’s modeled after adult magazines in that it has a mix of short and long pieces, but it’s more focused in that each issue has one central topic. To stay kid-friendly, content-heavy articles are balanced with content-related comic strips and fun activities.

Kids Discover is aimed at an older audience, typically fifth- to eighth-grade children. Unlike other children’s magazines, it is purely academic—no comics, no mention of the latest video game, no distractions—and each issue is devoted to a single science or history topic. It would work well as a supplement, or alternative, to a textbook. And yet, it’s fascinating. The writing, images, and design are all engaging.

But the real reason it works so well is that the world around us is inherently interesting, and *Kids Discover* manages to capture it.

The next few pages have content directly from recent issues of both *ASK* and *Kids Discover*. To see more sample issues, review their companion teaching guides, and find subscription information, go to the *ASK* Web site at www.cobblestonepub.com/magazine/ASK and to the *Kids Discover* Web site at www.kidsdiscoverteachers.com.

—EDITORS



ask



Pleased to meet you!

So Many Kinds of Animals—



From the publishers of *Crickle* and *Smithsonian Magazine*

Gone

Some birds are so beautiful, they seem to disappear when they fly. They come to rest on a branch, and you can see them clearly. But as soon as they take flight, they seem to vanish. This is because of their wings. The wings of these birds are so thin and so light that they are almost invisible when they fly. They are called "phantom fliers."



Forever

Ready... Set... BIOBLITZ!

You might be surprised how many species you can find in 24 hours, right in your own backyard—or a place nearby.



Search for plants and animals in your own backyard. You might be surprised how many species you can find in 24 hours, right in your own backyard—or a place nearby. This is a great way to learn about the plants and animals that live in your neighborhood.

What could possibly be so exciting? Well, it's not just the plants and animals you find. It's the excitement of discovering something new. You might find a new species of plant or animal that has never been recorded before.

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Searching for New Species

Have you ever wondered how many different kinds of plants and animals live on earth? How many kinds of fish, or birds, or mammals, or trees, or insects? Scientists wonder, too. And they travel all over the world to try to find out.



Scientists travel all over the world to try to find out how many different kinds of plants and animals live on earth. They go to places like the Amazon rainforest, the Himalayas, and the Great Barrier Reef. They look for new species of plants and animals that have never been discovered before.

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Pig-footed Bandicoot, last seen in 1908 on the island of New Guinea. It was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in 1998.

Why do 400-year-old animals still exist, but 100-year-old ones have disappeared? It's because of the way we live. We have changed the world so much that many animals can no longer survive.

Cells

KIDS DISCOVER

CELLS UNLOCKED

HOW GENES FIT

HOW'S YOUR ENDOPLASMIC RETICULUM?

IT'S IN YOUR GENES!

Genes are the instructions that tell your body how to grow and function. They are passed down from your parents. Some genes can cause you to have certain traits, like eye color or hair color. Other genes can cause you to have certain diseases. Scientists are learning more and more about how genes work and how they can be used to help people who are sick.

HOW ALICE—GENETICALLY ENGINEERED—IS ANIMAL TO HUNTER? YOU MAY BE SURPRISED!

Zooming In

Let's take a closer look at a cell. It's a tiny structure that can do amazing things. It's the building block of life. In a human body, there are trillions of cells. Each cell has its own job to do. Some cells are in charge of moving things around. Others are in charge of making energy. Still others are in charge of protecting the body from harm. All cells work together to keep the body healthy and alive.

What's in a Cell?

Each cell is different, but all cells have features similar to this **HUMAN CELL**.

PLANT CELLS Differ from animal cells

Plant cells have a cell wall, chloroplasts, and a large central vacuole. These structures help the plant stay upright and produce energy from sunlight.

The Stuff of Life

All living things have one thing in common—they are made from cells. Cells are often described as "building blocks." For instance, you are made of over 100 trillion of cells. Not only are you just five lucky! They can even grow and repair themselves. They can also die and be replaced. This is how life stays alive.

The Stuff of Cells

Cells are made of many different parts. Each part has a specific job to do. The nucleus is the control center. It contains the DNA. The mitochondria are the powerhouses. They make energy for the cell. The cell membrane is like a gatekeeper. It lets things in and out of the cell. The cytoplasm is the fluid that fills the cell. It helps move things around.

Cells Can Work Alone or Together

Single Cells

Some cells can live on their own. They can get food and get rid of waste. They can even reproduce. Examples include bacteria and yeast.

Cell Groups

Some cells work together to form a group. They can share resources and work together to do things that a single cell can't do. Examples include fungi and some simple animals.

Plant Cells

Plant cells are specialized to help the plant grow. They have a cell wall and chloroplasts. They can make their own food from sunlight.

DNA Unraveled

DNA is the blueprint for life. It contains the instructions for making proteins. Proteins are the building blocks of the body. They do almost everything. Without DNA, life would not exist.

Prokaryotes

These cells are simple and lack a nucleus. They are found in bacteria and archaea.

Eukaryotes

These cells are more complex and have a nucleus. They are found in plants, animals, and fungi.

Red Blood Cells

These cells carry oxygen throughout the body.

Nerve Cells

These cells transmit signals throughout the body.

Muscle Cells

These cells contract to move the body.

Great Depression



◀ **FOR MANY, NEW** clothing was a rare treat. Younger children got hand-me-downs from older siblings. Farm mothers sewed clothes out of flour and food sacks. Eventually, when they realized this was happening, some companies began making the sacks in pretty patterns.

"Broke! Can You Spare a Dime?"



A BIRTH OF a new era in social work began in the 1930s. The Federal Social Work Administration was created in 1935. It was the first federal agency to provide training and support for social workers. This helped to professionalize the field and ensure that those in need were getting the best care possible.



The Dust Bowl

The Great Depression coincided with the greatest drought in the United States. In 1931, drought in large parts of the western and central United States began to cause the Great Plains. They did not end until 1937. The area was considered America's breadbasket because of the great amount of wheat, corn, and soybeans. It was the heart of the Great Plains.



THE DUST BOWL (1931-1937)
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◀ **During the** Depression, there were "runs" on banks, when panicked depositors tried to withdraw all their money. Banks were forced to close, and many depositors lost all their money. In 1933, Roosevelt declared a bank holiday, meaning that all the banks in the country

were closed for four days. Government employees investigated the banks to determine which ones were well managed. Only those banks were allowed to reopen. People began to feel more confident in the banks.