



## Zoo in the Sky: A Book of Animal Constellations

*Jacqueline Mitton*

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## **Zoo in the Sky: A Book of Animal Constellations Jacqueline Mitton**

This award-winning book capturing the glittering light show of the constellations is now available in paperback.

Take an illuminating ride through the starry night sky with National Geographic's *Zoo in the Sky!* Little Bear and the Great Bear in the Northern Sky; the scaly dragon winding his long tail; the Great Dog chasing the Hare in the Southern Sky; all are beautifully rendered in Christina Balit's vibrant art, studded with shiny stars, which perfectly illustrates Jacqueline Mitton's rich text.

Awards include: Parent's Guide to Children's Media Award Parent Council Award REVIEW(S): "A visually dynamic introduction to the animal constellations." --*Booklist*

"Mitton offers poetic, abbreviated legends of the nighttime sky, while Balit's paintings, highlighted by shimmering silver stars, give visual meaning to the text." --*Kirkus Reviews*

"This is an attractive introduction to astronomy... [T]he simple poetic descriptions will capture the attention of preschoolers and early elementary-age children alike. A brief explanation of stars and constellations rounds out this lovely and unusual offering." --*School Library Journal*

## **Zoo in the Sky: A Book of Animal Constellations Details**

Date : Published October 24th 2006 by National Geographic Society (first published August 1st 1998)

ISBN : 9780792259350

Author : Jacqueline Mitton

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Science, Childrens, Picture Books, Nonfiction, Animals



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## **From Reader Review Zoo in the Sky: A Book of Animal Constellations for online ebook**

### **Michael Fitzgerald says**

I really wish the stories were more substantial. The illustrations are lovely.

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### **Marti says**

Gorgeous illustrations! This book is supposedly for children ages 4 - 8 but I think the text might be over the heads of kids that young, although they would enjoy the pics. The text is a little dry, although it's written by a professor of Astrophysics so, she obviously knows her stuff but... Anyway, it's worth checking this book out for the pictures alone!

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### **Nya Savage says**

This book explains popular constellations in relation to animals. At the beginning and end of this book were maps of the southern and northern sky with the associated constellations and the animal in which they signify. This book was structured somewhat as poems that describe the nature of each constellation. This book was very creative in the way in which the information was depicted. It matched the beauty of writing and illustrations with the complexity of the stars and constellations. I learned a lot of facts surrounding constellations including that the zodiac signs are associated with constellations that are present at a given time, being the days in which they represent birthdays. I found it fascinating that the well-known constellation, the big dipper, is associated with the Latin word "Ursa Major" and the little dipper is "Ursa Minor", also known as the Great Bear and the Little Bear.

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### **Tsuyu Ko says**

I like to pick a book by looking at its cover first. This book's cover attracts my attention because of the colors that they used. The book is great for young students to read and easy to understand as well. Although it is an informational book, it is written in story form. That makes it easier for students to understand and willing to learn more from the book.

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### **Johna Brown says**

Zoo in the Sky is a great book for teaching a lesson about stars and constellations. The book has beautiful illustrations that are engaging, and the content is informational and interesting. In the story there are animal illustrations in the sky and I like that. Most of the time when you are looking in the sky, you are able to see pictures or imagine that you see different things. In different parts of the story, I would have my students to close their eyes and visualize what is happening in the story. As a teacher, I would use this story to teach

students how to use imagery. Imaging is something all readers do without even noticing. Usually the author will write a book for you to visualize, feel and hear the events that happen within the story. The purpose is for students to be able to imagine the story. I would read the story and allow students to visualize what I am reading without showing the illustrations. While I am reading, I will stop to let students share and discuss before proceeding with the story. Students will share with a partner what images they saw while I was reading. After the class has demonstrated the use of imagery, I will read the story a second time and show the illustrations. This time the story will be read with fluency.

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### **Erin says**

“Zoo in the Sky” tells about several animal-shaped constellations in the Northern and Southern hemispheres. Although the text is a little dry and young, it would be a good book to use to introduce constellations and stars. The back of the book contains two pages with more detailed information. It also contains star maps for the Northern and Southern hemispheres and lists which constellations discussed in the book are located in each hemisphere.

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### **Slee says**

Zoo in the Sky is an interesting read, and it is one that my son and I enjoy together, reading parts at a time. It is a bit too much for a small child, but it is fine for enjoying together. My teenager also likes this book, although I admit, part of the attraction, for me is the liberal use of color.  
If you want to inspire a love of constellations and their stories, it's a good start.

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### **Emer Martin says**

This book is clearly a showcase for Christina Balit's wonderful illustrations. As for learning about astronomy, it doesn't really help. But I love it anyway for its fanciful nature. Any chance to get my head in the stars.

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### **Autumn Yoon says**

Zoo in the Sky is a GREAT book for teaching a lesson about stars and constellations. The book has beautiful illustrations that are engaging, and the content is informational and interesting. This book would be great for a science class, or even just to read to students for fun. As a picture book, this book would be appropriate for students in Kindergarten-1st, but for independent reading, this would be great for 3rd-5th grade.

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### **Joella [www.cinjoella.com](http://www.cinjoella.com) says**

I mostly liked this book. But I wished that it talked about some of the other constellations. It tells about "the

Twins" (Gemini) that Taurus is after, but it doesn't talk about Orion which tends to be more recognized in the night sky. Perhaps it is because this book mostly focuses on the animals. But I still thought some of the other major constellations (like Hercules or Pegasus) would have pages as well.

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### **Peacegal says**

4.5 stars -- What lovely, glittering illustrations and an exciting introduction to the night sky!

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### **Genesis Princesita says**

Very clear, the illustrations are really appealing, beautiful I must say.

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### **Brigid Keely says**

"Zoo In The Sky: A Book of Animal Constellations," by Jacqueline Mitton, is a themed book of constellations. It covers a handful of animal-shaped constellations in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres. The illustrations are charming, and accented with silver-foil stars, and the text is short and informative and easily readable. There are two pages in the back with a bit more science-heavy information that is above the level of a 4 year old (my audience), but simple enough that I could explain terms and concepts.

We were both a little disappointed that the book didn't include the "real" names of constellations (for example, it mentions the big and little bear but not Ursa Major and Ursa Minor; it mentions The Dragon but not Draco). But most astronomy books we've looked at cover ONLY the Northern hemisphere (which is where we live) so it was exciting seeing the Southern hemisphere covered as well.

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### **Laura Weakland says**

Beautiful book outlining the animal constellations in the sky!

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### **Cindy says**

Wonderful book. Beautiful pictures. Both hemispheres, Beautiful Premise.

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