The first day of life is different for every animal. Human newborns don’t do much at all, but some animals hit the ground running. The Caldecott Honor–winning team Steve Jenkins and Robin Page apply their considerable talents to revealing how twenty-two different species, from the emperor penguin to the Siberian tiger, adapt to that traumatic first few hours of life, with or without parental help. Jenkins’s vividly colorful cut-paper illustrations are eye-poppingly three-dimensional and as exquisite as ever. While the text is short and sweet, an illustrated guide provides descriptions of the twenty-two animals in the back. Fantastic!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 720 (What's this?)
Hardcover: 32 pages
Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (January 8, 2013)
Language: English
Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 9 inches
Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars – See all reviews (14 customer reviews)
Age Range: 4 - 7 years
Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

This sweet book shares the first day of life from the point of view of the animals included in it. Not just your typical North American animals but animals from around the world, one per page with great pictures similar to Eric Carle style. My kids and I particularly liked the zebra page which shares that the mother zebra memorizes the unique stripe pattern of her particular baby in order to recognize it in the herd! My kids range in age from 8 to 2 and all love this book. The end of the book has more information on each animal which my 6 and 8 year old really appreciated.
I purchased this book for my grandchildren as they were expecting a sibling. I believe it helped them understand just how helpless their baby sister would be at birth and how much they could help teach the new baby. Frankly though adults also enjoyed learning what some animals can do at birth. All Steve Jenkins books are richly illustrated, nonfiction works that while fascinating to children on their own also subtly teach a "science" lesson.

I bought this for my four and a half year old daughter who loves animals. She begged me for it! It's adorable, with beautiful illustrations. It tells what various animals are able to do on the first day they are born. I would definitely recommend this book and give it as a gift. It's now one of my favorite books! You won't regret buying this book.

Wonderful illustrations and a minimum of words describe how a variety of lesser-known animals spend their first day. This science book for the young includes a glossary with pictures that describes in detail each of the animals included in the book. Lovely!

my three yo loves this book! It details the first day of several animals. My only complaint is that it includes some animals with non-typical birth events for their genus (i.e. frogs who store tadpoles in their throats until developed). Sorry - it's the geeky biologist in me.

Has nice pictures, features unusual animals (aardvark, tapir) and simply depicts 'first day' events. Charming book. My grandbaby who is 3, loved the book, I used it as a preface for her first visit to the Zoo.

I heard the recommendation of this book on NPR. I think any parent or child would enjoy this book. There was a good deal of information about an animal’s first day that I did not know. It makes a great gift.

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