

CHRISTIAN LIBERTY NATURE READER

Book K
Second Edition

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FLORENCE M. LINDSTROM

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To Parents and Teachers

In the Bible, it is written that King Solomon was wiser than all men, and that he wrote three thousand proverbs and over a thousand songs. He also was interested in trees, animals, birds, creeping things, and fish (I Kings 4:31–34). May this *Nature Reader* encourage and develop its readers to be curious to know more about God’s wonderful creatures.

Upon completing the four *Christian Liberty Phonics Readers*, kindergarten students should be able to read this book with minimal help. As the lesson is read the first time, please give help as needed. Review questions at the end of each story are also included to evaluate the student’s comprehension. There is a satisfaction for a student as he realizes he can read the lesson well. A parent-teacher’s encouragement and enthusiasm is very valuable.

This text also seeks to expand the vocabulary skills of the reader by the key terms in **bold print** found throughout the book. Instructors are encouraged to make sure that each student understands the meaning of these vocabulary terms in the text. A helpful

listing of definitions for the key terms is found at the end of the book under “Words You Should Know.” These definitions are given for the parent-teacher to help the student understand the meanings of these words.

Additional reading is also recommended to help improve the student’s reading skills—that is, to understand the content being read, to express words with meaning, and to increase the reading speed of the student.

May this *Nature Reader* open up young minds to want to learn even more of the knowledge and understanding of our Creator God.

*The Staff of Christian Liberty Press
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A Is for Alligator

The alligator is an amazing creature! A mother alligator lays about twenty to seventy eggs on high ground that she has made smooth. She covers them with a big pile of grass and other plants. Then she slips into nearby water and waits. She watches closely to see if any snake or raccoon comes to steal her eggs. Her sharp teeth will take care of any thief.

The mother alligator waits close by for about two months. The pile of grass gives off heat that keeps the eggs warm. Now is the time for the mother to take the pile of grass off the eggs. Are the eggs ready to hatch? The mother makes a low **grunting** sound. She waits and listens. If there is no noise, she goes back into the water for a **couple** of days. Sometimes, the young alligators begin to make very high-pitched noises from inside



their eggs. This lets the mother know the babies are ready. She must come at the right time, or the babies will die. She helps them get out of their shells. Out crawl the eight-inch babies from their three-inch eggs! This is a **dangerous** time for the babies. Many animals would like to have them for lunch.

A young alligator can grow almost a foot longer each year. It can grow to be up to sixteen feet long. It may live for fifty-six years. **God** put its eyes on the top of its head. It is able to swim underwater and sneak up



Young Alligator

on something to eat. It uses its tongue to close off its throat so water does not go into its stomach.

The alligator eats all kinds of animals, such as fish, birds, and turtles. Do you see its sharp teeth? It uses them for grabbing, not for chewing. It swallows its food whole! If one of its teeth wears out, another pushes its way up through the middle of the old tooth.

It is not safe to play near an alligator. A puppy or kitty would be a much better pet to have.

Review

1. The mother alligator places her eggs under a _____ of grass.
2. The alligator's eyes are on the _____ of its head.
3. The alligator uses its teeth for _____ .

B Is for Beetle

Did you know that there are over 250,000 different kinds of **beetles** in the world? God created more kinds of beetles than He did any other kind of creature. Most of these little **insects** are dark brown or black and have hard outer bodies. Many have pretty colors like the one in the picture on the next page.

Some are so tiny that you need a **magnifying glass** to see them. Others grow to be about six inches long, like the big **Goliath** beetle from Africa.

Beetles eat tiny bits of **material** from plants and animals. Some eat other insects. Many live on dead animals or on stored foods such as dried peas and beans. Others eat food from ponds and streams where they live.

Some beetles are harmless, but others are very **harmful**. The harmful ones can



Ladybug Beetle

damage plants, trees, wooden furniture, and carpets. The boll weevil may spread across cotton crops in North America, destroying millions of dollars' worth of cotton in a year. Worst of all, however, some eat stored food.

Sometimes, they ruin food such as flour, just by living in it. The Colorado beetle eats potato plants.

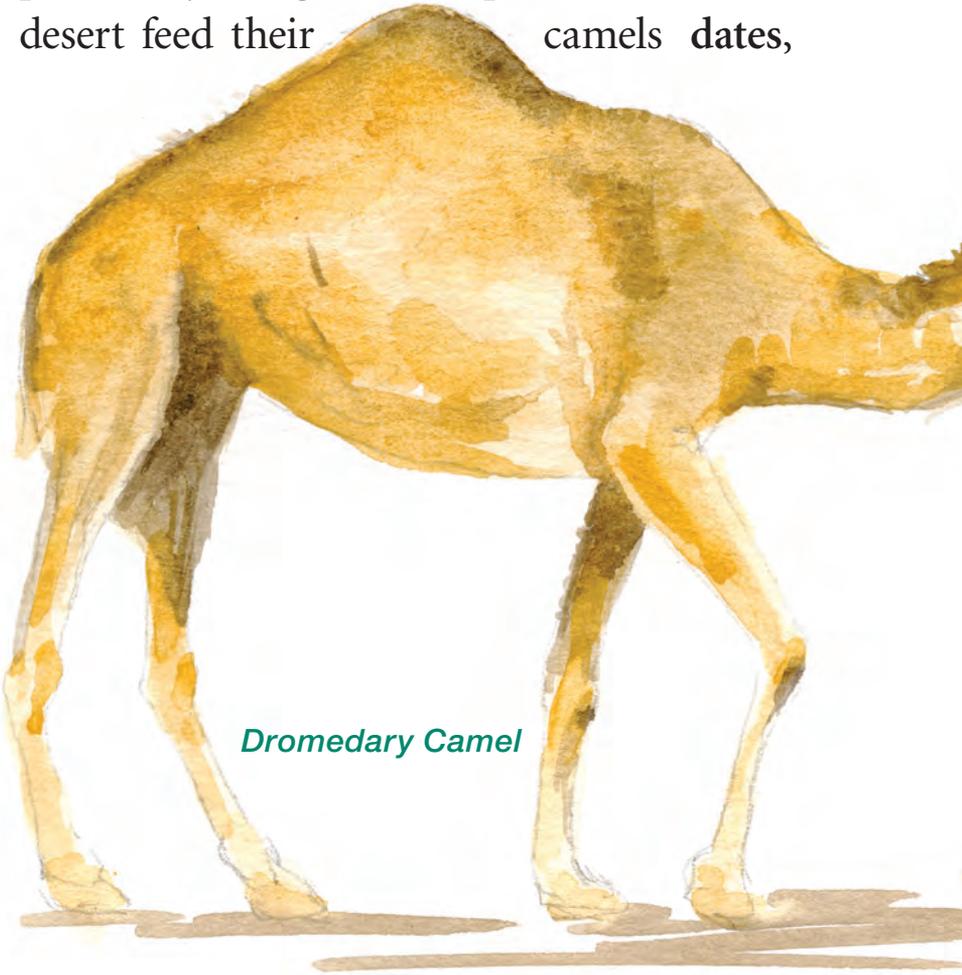
God gave beetles ways to **defend** themselves. Their hard coverings are their main **defense**. Some bite, some “play dead”, and some give off a **chemical** that smells or tastes bad, or burns the skin of animals. **Bloody-nosed** beetles dribble a red, burning, bad-tasting chemical to defend themselves against **predators**. **Bombardier** beetles produce a **poisonous** chemical that is boiling hot like fire. Beetles are so interesting.

Review

1. There are over _____ kinds of beetles.
2. Boll weevils can destroy _____ crops.
3. The bombardier beetle defends itself with a chemical that is very _____.

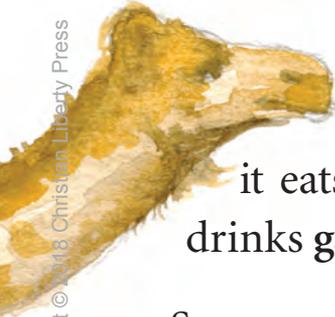
C Is for Camel

A camel may not be happy if you disturb it during its lunchtime. It likes to eat plants, hay, and grains. People who live in the desert feed their camels dates,



Dromedary Camel

grass, and such grains as wheat and oats. It is hard to find food and water in the desert. The camel may have to live on dried leaves, seeds, and whatever desert plants it can find. Its mouth has a tough lining so it can eat thorny plants. If food is scarce, a camel will eat anything—bones, fish, meat, leather, and even its owner's tent.



A camel can go without food or water for a long time. When it eats, it eats a lot. When it drinks, it drinks **gallons** of water.

Some camels have one hump, and others have two humps. Camels were created to live in dry, desert lands found in Africa and Asia.

The winds may blow sand everywhere in the desert. A camel has special eyes with long **eyelashes**, so sand cannot get into them and they are protected from the **glaring** sun. It also has hair in its

ears that keeps out the sand. If sand blows on its nose, the camel can just shut its nose. Even its big, flat feet were made for walking on desert sand. It can run up to forty miles per hour for a short time and keep running at about twenty-five miles per hour. It can walk about thirty miles in a day. It likes to walk slowly.

Camels are very useful. People can get good milk from them. Camels can carry people and heavy loads. Their fur and hides are used for clothing, and their meat is eaten. Many people in Africa and Asia depend on camels to supply most of their needs.

Review

1. Name something a camel likes to eat.
2. Camels live in the dry _____.
3. A camel has _____ over its eyes to keep the sand out.

D Is for Dolphin

*Bottlenose
Dolphin*



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Is this sea creature smiling? What fun it is to watch friendly-looking dolphins leap out of the water! They belong to the whale family. These small “whales” are excellent swimmers; they usually swim at seven to eight miles per hour. Some have been

clocked up to twenty-five miles per hour! The **bottlenose** dolphins like warmer water and do not usually dive as deep as other dolphins.

Dolphins are **warm-blooded** and have a body temperature about the same as ours. They have a thick layer of fat just under the skin that helps keep them warm in cool water. They also have a little hair. They are **mammals**, so they nurse their young.

Dolphins like to eat fish and **squid**. Their special teeth help them to catch the fish. They swallow their food without chewing it.

Dolphins can hear, see, taste, and touch, but not smell. They make sounds of clicks and whistles to **communicate** with other dolphins. They find objects in the water by listening to sound. They are able to learn certain tricks, especially when they are given fish as a treat.

A dolphin must come up to the surface of the water to get air. It breathes through a single nostril called a blowhole on the top of its head.

The biggest dolphin is called the killer whale. It can grow to be over twenty feet long. A bottlenose dolphin, however, grows to be only about nine feet long.

Someday, you may be able to watch a dolphin show and see these graceful creatures swim and leap out of the water.

Review

1. Dolphins belong to the _____ family.
2. Dolphins have a thick layer of _____ that helps keep them warm.
3. Dolphins communicate using _____ and whistles.

Words You Should Know

A

antennae—sticklike parts that grow out of an insect’s head; they help the insect smell; also called *feelers*

B

beady—like beads; small, round, and shiny

beetle—an insect with mouthparts that are used for biting; has hard front wings that cover its soft, thin back wings when they are closed

bloody-nosed—is or like a bleeding nose

blowhole—a nostril on the top of a whale’s head

boll weevil—grayish or brown *weevil* (beetle) that feeds on the buds, flowers, and pods (*bolts*) of the cotton plant

bombardier—a bomber-crew member who releases bombs; the name given to a beetle with a defense mechanism that can fire a mixture of chemicals from special glands in its posterior

bottlenose—name given to a dolphin that has a snout that looks like the “nose” of a bottle

bristly—having many, many *bristles* (short, stiff, coarse hair) closely placed together

brush country—land covered with shrubs and *stunted trees* (trees that do not grow properly)

burrow—to make a tunnel in the ground by digging