

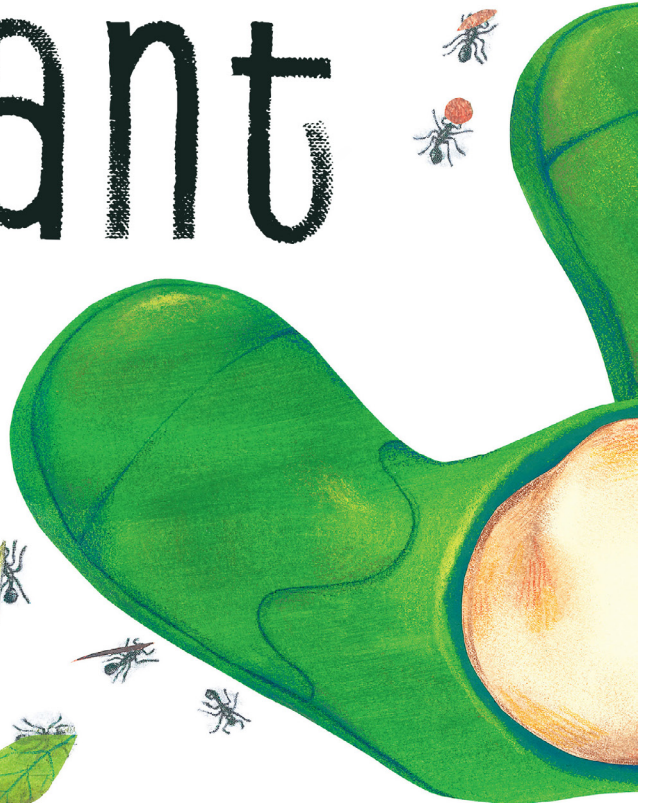
Grades pre-K-K-2



Your Teacher's Guide

from Blue Dot Kids Press

Giant



Steps



Anaïs Lambert

Giant Steps, written and illustrated by Anaïs Lambert,
translated by Johanna McCalmont
Published April 8, 2025 | ISBN 9798989858828 | Ages 3-7



We intentionally leave this page blank so our guides can be printed like a book.



Contents

Before Reading



During Reading



After Reading



Research



STEAM Activity: Is That a Leaf or a Raft?



STEAM Activity: Bug Vacuum



Citizen Science

Before Reading

Establish background knowledge.

- What do the title and cover illustrations tell you about the book? Where do you think the story takes place? Who will be in the story? What might happen in the story?
- What does the bio on the inside flap of the back cover tell you about the author and illustrator, Anaïs Lambert? Where in the world is Belgium? Can you find on a map both Belgium and where you live?
- Look through the illustrations in the book. Have you ever seen the creatures or plants that are in the book?

During Reading

As you read, pause with each surprising scene:

- Who is fighting?
- Who is racing?
- Are the prickly creatures alive?
- Who's in the colony that is moving homes?
- What are the helicopter
- Are the rivers and forests big or small?
- What is the bear, really?
- What is the elephant, really?
- Who is looking with one hundred eyes?
- Is there really a kangaroo, a giraffe, and a crocodile in the sky?
- Who is the giant?



After Reading

Check for understanding.

- Who is telling this story?
- Do you relate to this child? Why or why not?
- How do the illustrations create mood, clarify the topic, and show the setting?
- According to this child, what steps can you take to have an adventure?
 - Go outside.
 - Be quiet and listen.
 - Observe with your eyes.
 - Imagine.
- What happens at the end of the story?
- What surprised you in this book?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What did you learn as you read or talked about the story with your classmates and teacher?



Research

Did you not recognize any of the creatures or plants in the story? How could you find out what they are?

- Talk to an adult.
- Look in books.
- Look online.
- Do those creatures or plants live near your school?

Do animals eat or live in this plant or tree? Which animals? What times of year do they eat or live in this plant or tree? Why then?



STEAM Activity: Draw a Care Circle

Go on an adventure, just like the child in the book!

Supplies

- Outside space to walk in—a park is a great option
- Note-taking items for the teacher

Instructions

1. Go outside as a class and walk around the school or a nearby park.
2. Call out creatures, plants, and other parts of nature that you see or hear. The teacher can record the list.
3. Back inside the classroom, brainstorm what else those things could be. For example, from the book:
 - Beetles are wrestlers.
 - Maple seeds are helicopters.
 - Clouds form a parade of animals.
4. Working independently, draw a picture of what you saw in reality and then write a caption for it that says what it is in your imagination.

STEAM Activity: Bug Vacuum

Science Buddies offers great free STEM activities focused on biodiversity (<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/blog/biodiversity-lessons>). One is the bug vacuum (no insects harmed, of course!). Pretend to be a wildlife biologist studying insects with this fun activity!

This bug vacuum activity takes under an hour, and all you need are these materials:

- Plastic container with lid that can be cut (this is a great opportunity to clean and then reuse something like a sour cream, yogurt, or takeout container)
- Single hole punch
- Two wide and flexible drinking straws
- Tape
- Pen or pencil
- Nylon stocking that can be cut up
- Scissors
- Clear plastic wrap
- Access to an outside area where there is likely to be bugs

See the detailed instructions, with helpful photos, on the Science Buddies bug vacuum page. (<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/stem-activities/bug-vacuum?from=Blog>).

Citizen Science

Citizen science, also called **community science**, happens when people study the world around them and send the data they collect to scientists.

A **citizen scientist** is anyone—young or old, who has attended a lot of school or who hasn't, from a city or a small town—who helps to answer real scientific questions. Citizen scientists offer an invaluable service because, together, they can collect data over greater distances and longer periods of time than scientists and researchers alone.

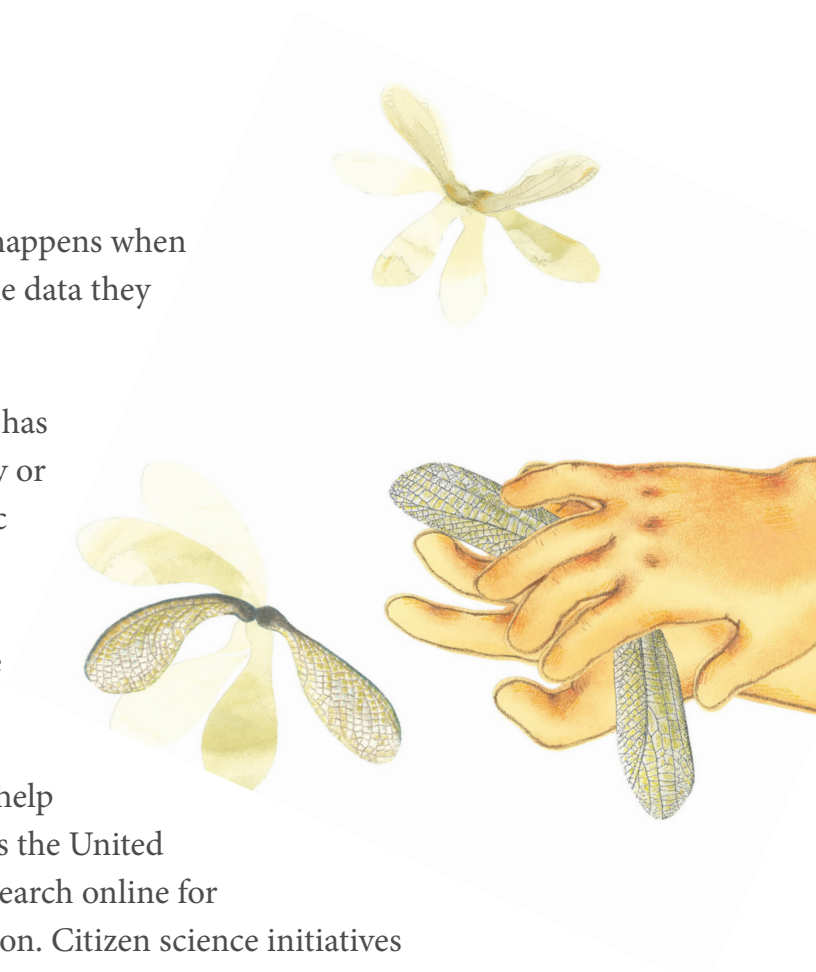
Bumble Bee Watch is asking citizen scientists to help them map different species of bumble bees across the United States and Canada. (If you live somewhere else, search online for bee-related citizen science projects in your location. Citizen science initiatives are common around the world!) With this information, professional scientists and researchers can better determine the conservation needs of bumble bees, locate rare or endangered bumble bee populations, and learn more about the lives and activities of bumble bees. All you need to do is look for bees, photograph them, and send in your photos!

Tips for photographing bees (<https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/photo-tips/>).

Clues for identifying bees (<https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/anatomy/> and <https://www.xerces.org/bumble-bees/about>). But don't worry—you do not have to identify the bee you photograph. The experts will do that for you!

Where to upload your photos (<https://www.bumblebeewatch.org>).

Learn more about Bumble Bee Watch (<https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/about>) and about helping bees (<https://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation>; <https://www.xerces.org/bumble-bees/get-involved>). A lot of good can be done by planting gardens that attract bees. Bonus: With more bees come more opportunities to photograph them!





Blue Dot Kids Press inspires curiosity with beautifully crafted stories that connect us to each other and the planet we share. Written and illustrated by impassioned **storytellers and artists from around the world**, our books engage young readers' innate sense of **wonder and empathy**, connecting them to our global community and **the pale blue dot we call home**.

As an **independent, mission-driven**, children's publisher based in San Francisco, California, and Wellington, New Zealand, our **passion for nature and its stewardship** are evident in every book we publish—as well as in our business practices.

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