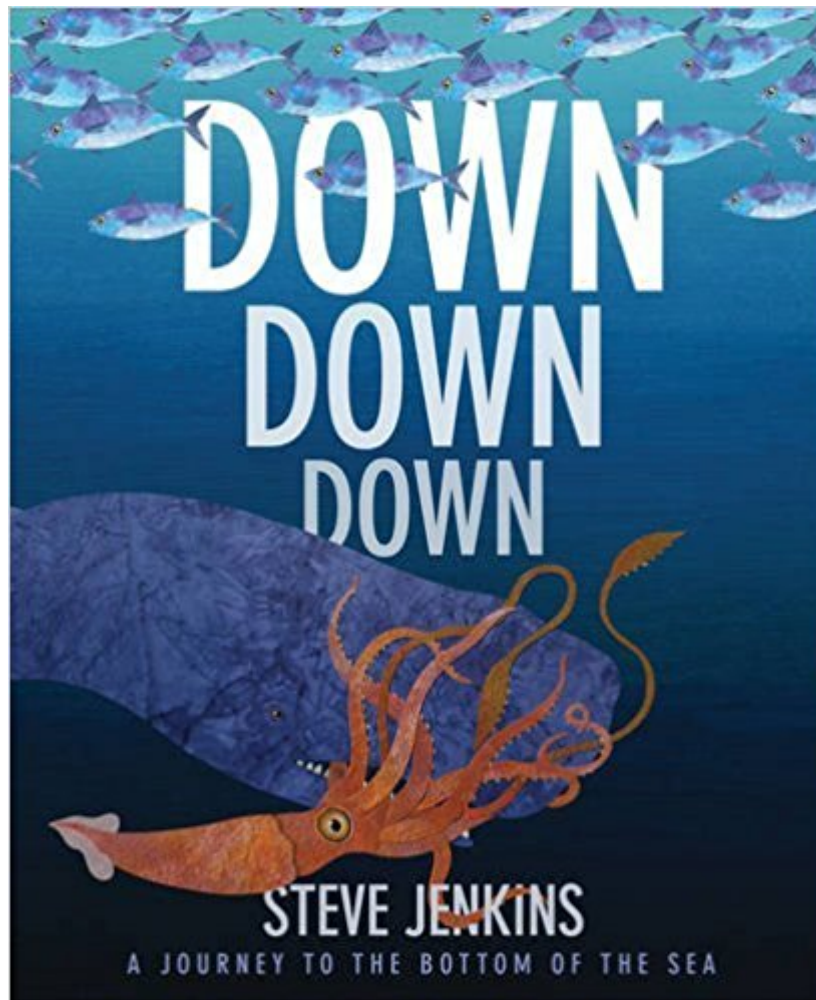




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# Down, Down, Down: A Journey To The Bottom Of The Sea



## Synopsis

Half the earth's surface is covered by water more than a mile deep, but most of this watery world is a mystery to us. In fact, more people have stood on the surface of the moon than have visited the deepest spot in the ocean. Come along as we travel down, down, down, from the surface to the bottom of the sea. Along the way you can see jellyfish that flash like a neon sign, creatures with teeth so big, they can't close their mouths, and even a squid as long as a bus, which battles to the death with a sperm whale, the largest predator on earth. It'll be a journey you won't soon forget! Award-winning author-illustrator Steve Jenkins delivers another masterful collection of fascinating facts and amazing art.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 980 (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (April 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544709519

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #190,230 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Oceans & Seas #92 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Water #150 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Fish

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Caldecott honoree Steve Jenkins offers young readers a quietly stunning story about the world below the watery surface in *Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea*. With his incredible paper collage illustrations of sea creatures and informative text, Jenkins manages to plumb the unfathomable depths of our oceans for the age 5-9 set in this perfect read-aloud and look closely book. *Down, Down, Down* captures the vastness, complexity and mysteriousness of the deep without over-simplifying the new research and astonishing discoveries. This oceanography

lesson unfolds as a story in which the reader descends from the blue surface down nearly 36,000 feet (that's seven miles down!) to the Marianas Trench, while meeting Flying Squids and Loosejaw Stoplight Fish along the way. This is an enchanting and informative choice for kids who loved the classic illustrations of Eric Carle, Lois Ehlert and Leo Lionni as pre-schoolers, but are ready to bump up to a nonfiction read. Children's book collectors will surely want to get their hands on *Down Down Down*, too. --Lauren Nemroff Product Description

Caldecott Honor-winning Steve Jenkins provides a top-to-bottom look at the ocean, from birds and waves to thermal vents and ooze. Half the earth's surface is covered by water more than a mile deep, but most of this watery world is a mystery to us. In fact, more people have stood on the surface of the moon than have visited the deepest spot in the ocean. Come along as we travel down, down, down, from the surface to the bottom of the sea. Along the way you can see jellyfish that flash like a neon sign, creatures with teeth so big, they can't close their mouths, and even a squid as long as a bus, which battles to the death with a sperm whale, the largest predator on earth. It'll be a journey you won't soon forget!

A Look Inside *Down, Down, Down* (Click on Images to Enlarge)      Soft Bodies Turn Up the Heat      A Q&A with Steve Jenkins, Author of *Down, Down, Down*

Q: How much research was involved in the creation of the book? A: Lot's--I read ten or twelve books about ocean exploration and biology, borrowed or bought dozens of others with photos and illustrations of ocean animals, watched all of the BBC ocean-related TV productions (*Blue Planet*, *Planet Earth*, *The Living Planet*, *The Life of Mammals*--I feel like David Attenborough is my good friend). And of course I did a lot of internet research. So many deep-ocean discoveries are recent, and lots of things haven't made their way into print yet, at least not into books that I could find. There are a lot of high-quality web sites associated with universities or research organizations. One of the hardest parts was figuring out where to do the descent, once I'd decided to do a surface to sea floor journey. I wanted the water temperature, geology and animal life to be accurate for that specific location. Ultimately, I realized that if we were going to go on this trip, we really had to end up in the deepest spot in the sea.

Q: What was the most surprising thing you learned while working on *Down, Down, Down*? A: Probably the thing that got me interested in the first place--the fact that we know so little about the oceans. The longest mountain range in the world--the mid-ocean ridge, which runs for more than 40,000 miles-- was unknown until the 1960s. There are undoubtedly large, still unknown life forms in the oceans.

Q: Which animal was the most challenging to construct? A: The siphonophore--both lights on and lights off.

Q: What do you think accounts for both adults' and kids' long-abiding fascination with the ocean and its creatures? A: As a species, we are intrigued with the unknown. It's one reason we've done so well, and inhabit almost every corner of the globe (at least

where there's dry land). I think it's the fact that the ocean is at once so inviting (think: a nice day at the beach or a pleasant sailboat trip) and so terrifying (a storm at sea; the dark, cold depths and frightening creatures) makes it especially fascinating. And many of those deep-sea creatures are beyond anything we'd imagined. Q: Are there certain things a parent/teacher/adult can do to keep the love of science alive in kids? As a parent, what do you do to encourage that love and curiosity in your own children? A: Listen to their questions, and if you don't know the answer, look it up together. Buy lots of nonfiction books! Or get them at the library, and read them together. Like so many things--diet, physical activity, a love of art or music--children pay more attention to what we do than what we say. So the first step in encouraging a love of science in children might be to cultivate an interest in it ourselves. And there is so much going on right now, so many amazing things being discovered, that it's not hard to become interested. Our family watches lots of nature programs, such as Richard Attenborough's BBC-produced documentaries. They are a great entry point to natural science. (Photo © Tim Tucker) --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

In this plunge into the deep, Jenkins displays his usual keen awareness of what is fascinating about biology and imparts it without sensationalism--the facts speak for themselves. Light becomes an impossibility only a tiny fraction of the way down into the ocean, and the deeper this book goes, the darker the palette and the scarier and stranger the beast encountered. Sophisticated cut- and torn-paper collage-work fit the alien qualities of the subjects well; it's equally at home capturing the tiered needlepoints of lizardfish teeth as it is delivering an impressive and illuminating display of bioluminescence. The scale of just how staggeringly deep the ocean is, and how little we know of much beyond what happens at the surface, is conveyed by sidebars on each page that drop precipitously from sea level to the ocean floor many miles below. Thorough endnotes give greater detail on each of the featured creatures and help make this a most welcome introduction to the sometimes-surprising world of marine biology. Grades 2-4. --Ian Chipman --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Aside from having awesome artwork, this book does a really good job of instilling a sense of wonder about just how deep the oceans are. My kids (5 and 8) ask me to read this most nights now. Some nights we end up staying up way too late because they spend 5 minutes per page geeking out on the creatures, immense pressures, and "what if" scenarios.

My 5 1/2 year old son LOVES this book. It was more informational than I thought it would be (I

thought there would be a storyline or something) but he doesn't mind the absence of a story and completely embraced all of the interesting facts about the ocean!

After reading reviews of this book on , I ordered it for my grandson, age 11, who is interested in sea life and in paper artwork. When I first flipped through this book, I thought that some of the art plus the increasingly darker pages might not appeal to a kid. I was wrong. When my grandson started looking at it and reading it, he started telling me about interesting facts he was learning that he hadn't seen in other sea life books or articles; he also thinks it's "cool" that pages get darker as they show deeper parts of the ocean. He has read it several times and keeps it accessible on my coffee table rather than in his bookcase. This book is a winner. I'll be ordering another copy to be shipped to my granddaughters (ages 5 and 8), who live in CA and go once or twice a year to a huge aquarium.

Fantastic book!!! My 4 year old son loves it and I enjoy reading it to him because I am learning fascinating new things too!

This book is a winner. I'm delighted with the illustrations; even a science-minded student will appreciate Jenkins' beautiful creations. Next, the scale on the right side of every two-page spread is such a great idea. It's the perfect way to show how little of the ocean is sunlit and how much, much more of it is dark and almost unknown. Finally, I really like the way Jenkins gives just enough information about the creatures on each page as we "travel" deeper, but then at the back of the book has a reference section for readers who hunger for more detail. This book has something for everyone in the family!

My 4 year old is quite enamored with the ocean and its great mysteries. This book is PERFECT for him. While he gets more a kick out of naming the creatures and asking his old questions than listing to the facts, this is a book he can grow with for sure. I have other Steve Jenkins books and started purchasing them for their beautiful illustrations. I highly recommend all of his books.

The illustrations are great, though some are a bit scary for my 4 year old.

One of the best books in the home. It has gone through a lot, has lasted well as a book and help inspire a family love of the ocean.

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