

# *Christian Liberty Nature Reader*

## *Book K*



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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.

Each lesson is completed on two pages. 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. Additional reading is recommended for improvement, comprehension, expression, and speed. 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.

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



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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 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. If she hears a sound, she knows 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 under water and sneak up on something to eat. It uses its tongue to close off its throat so water does not go into its stomach. The alligator cannot stick out its tongue.

The alligator eats all kinds of animals, such as pigs and turtles; it may also eat bottles, **chunks** of wood, and stones. Its teeth are 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.



# B is for Beetle

Did you know that there are almost 300,000 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 hard-bodied **insects** are dark brown or black. But many have pretty colors like the one in the picture.

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 damage plants, trees, furniture, and carpets. The **boll weevil** may spread across the cotton crops of America, destroying millions of dollars' worth of cotton in a year. But worst of all, 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 badly, or burns the skin of animals. **Bloody-nosed** beetles dribble a red, burning, bad-tasting chemical. **Bombardier** beetles produce a **poisonous** chemical that is boiling hot like fire. Beetles are so interesting.



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