

CYCLOPAEDIA 29 — FLORA AND FAUNA

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OVERVIEW

Flora and fauna. Nice alliteration but what do they mean? Flora relates to plant life. Fauna relates to animal life. Most often in our stories and games, we like to focus on the exceptional—myths, legends, magic, supernatural, paranormal, alien—because it captures our attention and inspires our imaginations. Yet, the natural world of plants and animals still exists in our stories and many times add some of the strongest and most emotional elements.

Think of the stories that tug at our hearts most. Many of them are stories about wild animals or pets that bond with humans whether as pets, mounts, or companions. We have an affinity for animal companions and feel a strong emotional tug when they are in danger, hurt, and especially when they sacrifice themselves for us.

Even plants, whose significance we often overlook, can have major focus in stories about survival, where the plants provide food, water, shelter, and medicine. Plants also provide setting and beauty to a story. The emotions induced by the vivid description of a sunset vista or a rare flower of exquisite beauty can be breathtaking.

Even when plants and animals are not the focus of our stories, they provide the background to the natural world of our stories or the basis we build upon to create our fantastical and alien worlds. Having an understanding of the natural world grounds our storytelling and gives our readers and players a common ground to draw upon.

WHAT WE ARE NOT COVERING

Flora and Fauna cover a lot of ground. For this foray, we are not researching man, myth, monsters, or mega-fauna. Those are all being covered in other articles devoted to the topics. Thus, these areas of study are not included.

- Anthropology
- Cryptozoology
- Paleontology
- Xenobiology

Following are sources of information pertaining to Flora and Fauna to assist prospective game masters, game designers, writers, and storytellers in knowing where to start their research.

ARTICLES

Fire and explosion hazards to flora and fauna from explosives

By Merrifield, Roy

Source: Journal of Hazardous Materials, v74 n3 (2000): 149-161

The zooarchaeology of medieval 'Christendom': ideology, the treatment of animals and the making of medieval Europe

By Pluskowski, Aleks

Source: World Archaeology, 42, no. 2 (2010): 201-214

BOOKS

All Creatures Great and Small

By Herriot, James

Animal Farm

By Orwell, George

***Animals In War: Valiant Horses,
Courageous Dogs, and Other Unsung
Animal Heroes***

By Cooper, Jilly

Because of Winn-Dixie

By DiCamillo, Kate

Black Beauty

By Sewell, Anna

Complete Herbal

By Culpeper, Nicholas

***Does It Fart?: The Definitive Field Guide to
Animal Flatulence***

By Caruso, Nick and Rabaiotti, Dani

***Domesticated: Evolution in a Man-Made
World***

By Francis, Richard C.

***Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of
an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who
Helped Him Save Lives in World War II***

By Croke, Vicki

Endangered

By Schrefer, Eliot

***Endangered Species: A Reference
Handbook (Contemporary World Issues)***

By Randall, Jan A.

***The Ethics of Animal Re-creation and
Modification: Reviving, Rewilding,
Restoring***

By Oksanen, Markku and Siipi, Helena

***Fauna and Flora in the Middle Ages:
Studies of the Medieval Environment and
Its Impact on the Human Mind***

By Hartmann, Sieglinde

***Flora & Fauna Of The Bible: A Guide For
Bible Readers And Naturalists***

By Goodfellow, Peter

Flora of Middle-Earth

By Judd, Walter and Judd, Graham

***Green Pharmacy: The History and
Evolution of Western Herbal Medicine***

By Griggs, Barbara

Handbook of Nature Study

By Comstock, Anna Botsford

***The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel,
How They Communicate – Discoveries from
a Secret World***

By Wohlleben, Peter

***Inner Life of Animals: Love, Grief, and
Compassion? Surprising Observations of a
Hidden World***

By Wohlleben, Peter

King's American Dispensatory

By Breach, Dr.

***Lost Animals: Extinction and the
Photographic Record***

By Fuller, Errol

Marley and Me

By Grogan, John

Materia Medica

By Dioscorides

A Modern Herbal

By Grieve, M.

National Audubon Society Field Guides

By various authors

Nature Anatomy

By Rothman, Julia

The Plants of Middle Earth: Botany and Sub-Creation

By Hazell, Dinah

Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard to Think Straight About Animals

By Herzog, Hal

The Truth About Animals: Stoned Sloths, Lovelorn Hippos, and Other Tales from the Wild Side of Wildlife

By Cooke, Lucy

Voynich manuscript

By Unknown

Where the Red Fern Grows

By Rawls, Wilson

Animals on Board - Tabletop Game

Antler Island - Tabletop Game

Arbos - Tabletop Game

Arboretum - Tabletop Game

At the Gates of Loyang - Tabletop Game

Bärenpark - Tabletop Game

Battle Sheep - Tabletop Game

Cottage Garden - Tabletop Game

Creatures & Treasures - RPG

Crows - Tabletop Game

Dominant Species - Tabletop Game

Elk Fest - Tabletop Game

Evolution - Tabletop Game

Fauna - Tabletop Game

A Feast for Odin - Tabletop Game

Fields of Arle - Tabletop Game

Fields of Green - Tabletop Game

Finca - Tabletop Game

Fleet - Tabletop Game

Flowerpower - Tabletop Game

Glen More - Tabletop Game

GURPS Bestiary - RPG

Habitats - Tabletop Game

Heartland - Tabletop Game

Herbaceous - Tabletop Game

Hey, That's My Fish! - Tabletop Game

Homesteaders - Tabletop Game

Indian Summer - Tabletop Game

Keyflower: The Farmers - Tabletop Game

La Granja - Tabletop Game

The Legend of the Cherry Tree that Blossoms

Every Ten Years - Tabletop Game

Lotus - Tabletop Game

Monarch - Tabletop Game

Mondo - Tabletop Game

Monsters & Animals - RPG

Morels - Tabletop Game

Myrmes - Tabletop Game

Photosynthesis - Tabletop Game

Pi mal Pflaumen - Tabletop Game

Rattus - Tabletop Game

Reef Encounter - Tabletop Game

Salmon Run - Tabletop Game

GAMES

3 Seeds - Tabletop Game

Agricola - Tabletop Game

Agricola: All Creatures Big and Small -
Tabletop Game

American Megafauna - Tabletop Game

The Sanctuary: Endangered Species -
Tabletop Game
SimAnt - Video Games
Scoville - Tabletop Game
Snow Tails - Tabletop Game
Spirits of the Rice Paddy - Tabletop Game
Takenoko - Tabletop Game
The Dog Island - Video Game
Topiary - Tabletop Game
Vinhos - Tabletop Game
Viticulture - Tabletop Game
Wilderness Survival Guide - RPG
Zoolereto - Tabletop Game
Zoo Tycoon - Video Game

CINEMA

The Adventures of Rin Tin-Tin - TV
Black Beauty
The Black Stallion
Born Free
Flipper
Fly Away Home
Free Willy
Gorillas in the Mist
Hidalgo
Hotel for Dogs
Hoot
Into the Wild
Lassie - TV
Lassie Come Home
March of the Penguins
The National Parks: America's Best Idea - TV
Old Yeller
The Private Life of Plants
The Plant
Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron
Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home
We Bought A Zoo
Whale Rider
White Fang
Winged Migration

LOCATIONS

Berlin Zoological Garden
<https://www.zoo-berlin.de/en>

The Field Museum
<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/>

Henry Doorly Zoo
<http://www.omahazoo.com/>

National Agricultural Hall of Fame
<http://www.aghalloffame.com/>

National Museum of Natural History
<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/>

National Zoo
<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/>

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
<https://www.kew.org/>

San Diego Zoo
<http://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/>

U.S. National Parks
<https://www.nps.gov/index.htm>

PEOPLE

David Attenborough
John James Audubon
Steve Backshall
Georges Cuvier
Charles Darwin
Dame Jane Morris Goodall
Alexander von Humboldt
Steve Irwin
John Muir
Freeman Tilden
Alfred Russel Wallace