



Join the Fun! America's favorite AstroCat is back!

Come along as America's favorite astrocat and her pal Dog show how scientists use creative or inventive thinking to adapt the natural world to help them meet their needs or wants. Like Space Cat, scientists and engineers never give up! All people use tools and technology in their life and jobs to solve problems.

- Ages 6 to 9
- Interest Level: Gr 1-3 / RL: 2
- 24 pages
- 6.5" x 9"

Book Features: Glossary, Bold terms, Bibliography, Index, fact sidebars, hands-on ideas

About the Author

Jacqueline A. Ball is a Seattle-based writer, editor, and the former publisher of *Scientific American Books for Kids* and *Weekly Reader Juvenile Book Clubs*. Awards and honors include Booklist Top 10 Youth Series Nonfiction (ALA), Children's Choice and Parents' Choice Honors.

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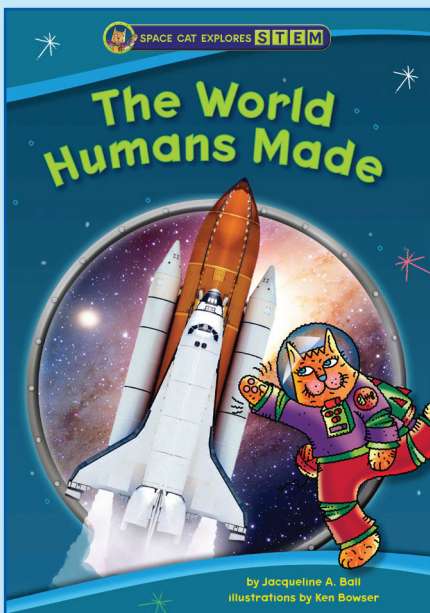
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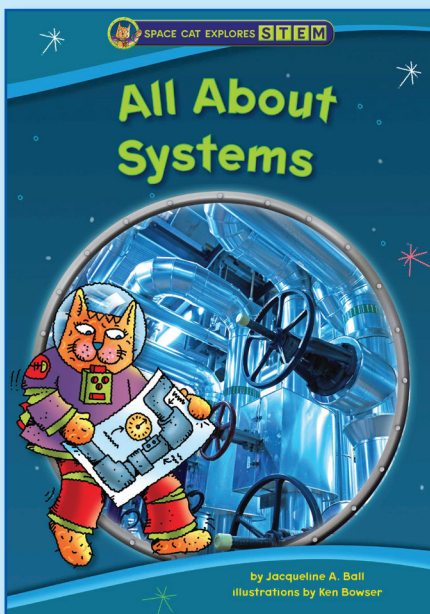
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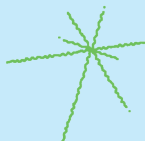
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Humans wanted to make their work easier, too. Thousands of years ago, the only way to move something heavy was to drag it along the ground. That took a long time and made everyone very tired. Then someone thought of cutting a slice from a tree trunk to make a wheel. People made wagons to roll heavy things. Sometimes animals pulled the wagons. It made work for humans much easier!



Did You Know?

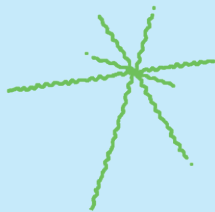
Space Cat:

The first wheels were solid. Later on, humans made wheels with **spokes**. They were lighter and faster.



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from *The World Humans Made*



After dinner it's fun to watch a show or play a video game. A remote lets us control the TV or game station without touching it.



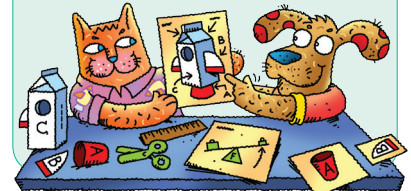
Try It!

Space Cat:

Remotes make our TVs easier and faster to use. Think of a new tool that would help you do a job at home or school. Make a **sketch** of it.

Dog:

Ask a friend to help with your **design**. You'll have more ideas and more fun when you **collaborate**.



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from *We Use Tools All Day*

Today engineers and **architects** (ARK-ih-tex) make **sketches** and then draw design plans before they begin to build. The plans show careful measurements of every part of the structure, inside and out.



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Did You Know?

Space Cat:

Concrete is a really old building material. Engineers in ancient Egypt used a kind of concrete to build the Pyramids.

Dog:

The foundation for my house is a concrete **slab**. It stays nice and cool in the summer and dry in the winter.



After builders figure out where to place the structure on the **site**, they dig a hole for the **foundation**. Most foundations are made of **concrete**.

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from *What Makes a Building Strong*

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