So automatic and mechanical is breathing for most of us that we often fail to consider the complexities of respiration. This book explores each element involved in this subconscious process and the factors that perpetuate human life.

Retaining the thrill and tone of oral storytelling as the written word became increasingly widespread was the charge of early English literature and the enduring works that have withstood centuries of linguistic and cultural change.

Satellites and robotic spacecraft have long travelled where humankind cannot, or dare not, go. By delving into the pages of these books, you will learn about the technology, people, and organizations that have made fruitful unmanned space missions a reality.

Deviating from the romanticism of earlier works, American literature that emerged after the mid-19th century adopted a more realistic and critical tone, portraying the social issues and ideas that are as much a part of modern American life as they are of modern American literature.

Perhaps the most defining characteristic of American literature composed after World War II is the rejection of innocence and naivety, and the presentation of life as a harsh and brutal journey for all. The American experience is closely tied to the idea of the individual versus society, and the role of the artist in society.

From the Mayan calendar to the Toltec architecture at Chichén Itzá, the bequests of ancient Mesoamerican civilizations are visible in everything from the cuisine and languages to the art and architecture of modern Mexico. The cultural and historical continuity of Mesoamerican civilizations is evident in the Aztec and Maya civilizations.

Beyond Earth's small, red neighbor Mars lie the gaseous, giant planets of the Outer Solar System. This book investigates the complex processes that govern the formation, evolution, and future of these worlds, as well as other curiosities within the solar system's farthest reaches, such as asteroid fields and the Kuiper belt.

The night sky is positively teeming with wonders, from star clusters and nebulae to quasars. Astronomy is the means by which humans have explored the universe and the cosmos, from ancient civilizations to modern telescopes.

The satisfaction derived from savoring a steak or indulging in an ice cream sundae is only one aspect of a larger process that involves the digestion of food as well as the diseases and disorders that can plague this frequently overlooked area of the human body.

Consumed for a wide range of reasons, substances that alter a person's mood and mind are widespread in most societies. This book explores the physical, ethical, and public policy issues that have arisen as the result of excessive and inappropriate substance use.

Though it encompasses the majority of the Earth's history, much about Precambrian time still remains unknown to us. With this Britannica Guide, you will understand the geologic evidence and the finesses of geochronology to help us comprehend the conditions of Earth, both past and present.

Because of its natural wealth, India has long been a tempting prize for invaders, yet foreign forces such as the Mughal Empire were unable to conquer it completely. However, foreign successes in recent times. Memorable images texture the narrative and vividly animate the story of this unique nation.

Characterized by a surge in biodiversity and evolutionary development, the Paleozoic Era ushered in the beginnings of life on Earth. With this book, you will understand the geologic evidence and the finesses of geochronology to help us comprehend the conditions of Earth, both past and present.

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The abundance of natural resources endemic to central and eastern Africa has been critical in shaping the trajectory of ... destructive conflicts as well as the birth of several groups who continue to fight for justice and peace in the region.

While we may often find them nestled in the corners of our attics or traversing our yards, rodents and bats are more ... colorful volume considers the features, behaviors, and major species of these three intriguing categories of mammals.

Constituting more than 70 percent of Earth's surface, the world's oceans are so vast as to remain something of an enigma ... who help fight for the preservation of this vital resource that has critical significance to all earthly life.

Although it assumes different monikers in various parts of the world and has appeared in various incarnations over time, the game of soccer has retained a great deal of its original character.

From its ancient kingdoms to the independent post-colonial states that make up the region today, western Africa has ... visible in cities like Timbuktu and where its diverse peoples continue to navigate a path towards a more stable future.

Arguably one the greatest influences on the Western world, if not the world as a whole, the Christian faith can be described as a cultural and religious colossus for the tremendous effect it has had on the development of civilization as we know it.

Though smaller than most other Arab countries, the gulf states of Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, and the United Arab ... and history of each of these states and their efforts to balance their ties with the Arab and international communities.

Despite its American origins, the fast-paced and often acrobatic game of basketball commands the attention of audiences around the world.

Described as craggy, rocky, or glacial, among a host of other descriptors, the Earth's geosphere—that is, its solid foundation—is subject to incredible variation.

Together, minerals, rocks, and fossils communicate much about Earth's history

Anyone who has marveled at the glimmer of a perfectly cut diamond, tended a garden, or consumed a nutritious meal has appreciated some of the many roles that minerals play in our lives.

While they share a border and a rich heritage, Saudi Arabia and Yemen are also a study in contrasts. Where Saudi Arabia ... two nations, as well as their individual struggles for prosperity and peace—with each other and the rest of the world.
Peering through a telescope, you are likely to encounter a host of celestial bodies—anything from another planet to a comet—speckling the night sky. Fathoming the boundlessness of space and the universe, we are immediately filled with curiosity about our own origins and wonder about the objects, life forms, and matter that populate the cosmos. From the abolitionists and civil rights leaders who struggled to secure basic freedoms to the scientists, entertainers, and politicians whose efforts and ideas continue to enrich the foundations of the nation, the causes and effects of the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the 19th century hatch onto an arena of influence and impact that eventually leads to the 20th century.