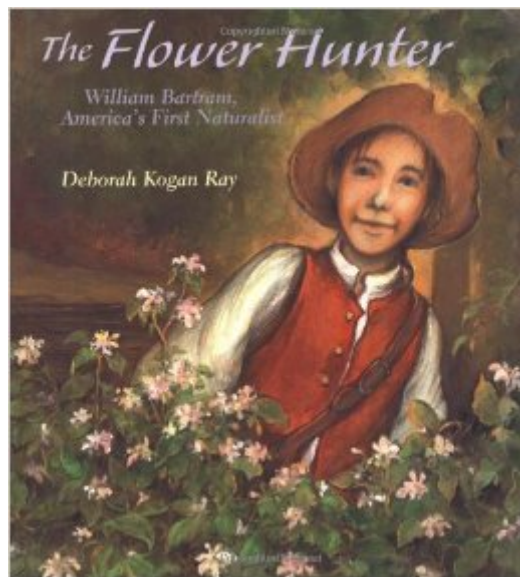


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# The Flower Hunter: William Bartram, America's First Naturalist (Outstanding Science Trade Books For Students K-12)



## Synopsis

Little botanist / first naturalist  
Of John Bartram's nine children, it is William who best loves nature and wants to follow in his father's footsteps. William dreams of accompanying his father as he explores the wilderness of colonial America as botanist to the King of England in search of plant specimens. Using journals, maps, and her own vibrant paintings, Deborah Kogan Ray tells the captivating story of Billy's first trip to the Catskill Mountains and his further adventures as an adult, including a long, perilous journey into the remote wilderness. A bibliography, biographical notes, and list of plant discoveries complete this remarkable book about America's first naturalist. A Junior Library Guild Selection

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 960L (What's this?)

Series: Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR); 1st edition (April 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374345899

ISBN-13: 978-0374345891

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.4 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #713,333 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#137 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Botany](#) [#248 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Flowers & Plants](#) [#458 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Science & Technology](#)

Age Range: 8 - 13 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

This is a fine children's book about the life of William Bartram, one of America's early and great naturalists. The story is told in the form of a journal, written by the young William, and is accompanied by helpful maps and vivid illustrations of scenes from his various journeys. Begun on his eighth birthday, the brief but evocative journal entries tell of the boy's early interest in botany, and of his longing to accompany his father John Bartram on his explorations of the newly colonized

Americas. He learns to make detailed renderings of leaves, and to identify the various types of plants in the region. Historical details are introduced casually, in the matter-of-fact manner of a child. He tells, for example, of a war between the British and the French that caused them to cancel a journey, or of his encounter with a friend of his father's -- Benjamin Franklin!! - who explains to him the marvels of electricity. We eventually see the young boy grow into a man, who is both sensitive to nature and respectful of the diverse cultures of the various inhabitants of the land. Particularly poignant is the subtle manner in which the author portrays the young man's attachment to and feeling for his aging father, as indicated in a pivotal scene where the son must rescue his father from drowning. Or in a later scene when William brings stories of a lovely but as-yet unnamed tree. His father has lost his vision, and cannot see the drawings that his son brings home for him, but together they name the species *Franklinia*, in honor of their mutual friend. In an informative afterward, the author points out that this tree has only survived today due to the plantings of it that Bartram made on his farm. This is a very simple and unassuming story, about a remarkable man, that can be appreciated by both young and old. It introduced me to a part of American history that I knew little about, and even inspired my two children to begin journals of the things they discover in nature.

So sorry this book is out of print, but I'm glad to have gotten a used copy in excellent condition through . The book is written in the form of a diary kept by William Bartram, America's first naturalist, from his eight birthday, 20 April 1747, when he was old enough to learn from and help his father, the botanist John Bartram, until he was able to accompany his father on his travels, and later on his own, always describing, recording, and drawing wildlife and plants. Together they traveled to the Catskill Mountains in NY, the colony of Pennsylvania, and to St. Augustine, "His Majesty's territory of East Florida" After his father returned to Philadelphia in 1766, he continued on his own to explore Georgia, North and South Carolina, East and West Florida, until he returned to his parents and extended family in January 1777, the year his father passed away. The full-color paintings which illustrate the book are gorgeous, as is the two-page map of his travels inside the front and back covers. Biographical information is given in the "Afterward" at the end, as well as a listing of "Bartram" plants, and a Bibliography.

I couldn't be happier with this book. Perfect addition to our homeschool study of nature and colonization.

Great book to read as part of botany lesson,

GREAT BOOK.

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