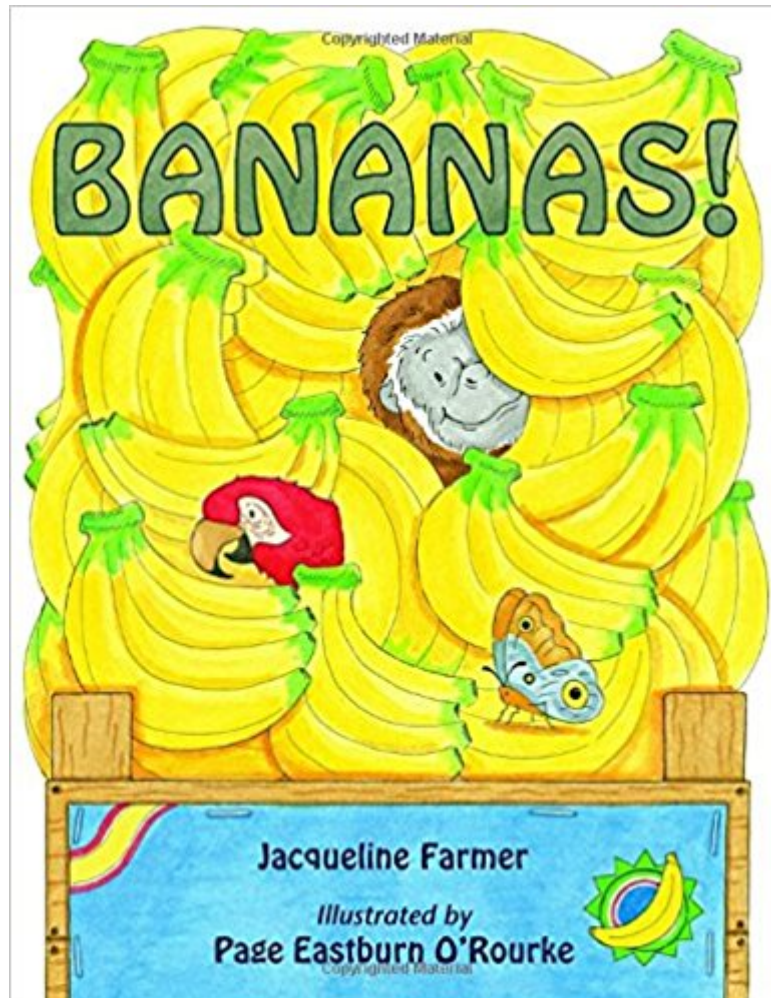




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# Bananas!



## Synopsis

Did you hear the one about the banana? Why did the banana go out with the prune? Because it couldn't get a date. Introducing the delicious and delectable, the brilliant and beloved, the one and only . . . banana! **BANANAS!** is the quintessential book about bananas. Sure, you know bananas are good for you, but how good exactly? Ounce for ounce, a banana is even more nutritious than an apple. If you want to keep the doctor away, try a banana. And there is so much more to learn about bananas. From their early roots in Southeast Asia to their introduction to Americans at the 1876 United States Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia alongside Alexander Graham Bell's new invention, the telephone, bananas have a very auspicious history. Bananas are now shipped (very carefully) all over the world. After reading **BANANAS!**, you won't think of bananas as just a quick, easy snack anymore.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Charlesbridge (July 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 088106114X

ISBN-13: 978-0881061147

Product Dimensions: 11.4 x 8.9 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,171,726 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #123 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Farming & Agriculture](#) #308 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Diet & Nutrition](#) #1356 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Diseases](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Grade 2-4-A great deal of interesting and accurate information about the ever-popular fruit is presented in blocks of text bordered by bamboo frames, set on white pages filled with illustrations. Primary-grade readers can learn how bananas grow, their many varieties (over 500), how they are shipped and stored, their history, animals that enjoy them, and their nutritional value. Simple recipes, such as one for making banana splits; jokes and riddles; and even a few amusing bits of

trivia are appended. The tone is breezy, conversational, and cheerful, and the layout is lively. The cartoon illustrations are humorous, colorful, and explanatory, showing children and adults of many ethnic and cultural backgrounds and a few different historical periods. Farmer covers some of the same material as George Ancona's *Bananas: From Manolo to Margie* (Clarion, 1990), which focuses on the growing and shipping of bananas, but her book is broader in its coverage and aimed at younger readers. Marian Drabkin, Richmond Public Library, CA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

You've heard of coffee-table books. Well, this is the perfect breakfast-table book. While you are munching your morning meal, pore over the pages of *Bananas!* and start your day with some surprising facts. Did you know that bananas don't grow on trees? The banana plant, which can reach 30 feet high in a single year, does not have a woody trunk. The plant is really the world's largest herb! This book discusses many aspects of the banana, including its ancient history, how it grows and how it was displayed as a curiosity at the U.S. Centennial Exhibition in 1876 (where Alexander Graham Bell introduced the telephone). Don't forget to enjoy a banana as you read! Americans eat an average of 28 pounds a year per person, so you'll want to get started on your share. Joan Silberlicht Epstein --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

What a nice book! There's something for everyone regarding that favorite fruit: history, biology, economics, ecology, fun facts, and even jokes and recipes! Both text and illustrations are great fun. My only quibble is with the age designation of 4-8 years. I think 4-12 would actually be more appropriate. The little ones especially love bananas, which is probably why the suggested age range, but the vocabulary is definitely for older kids. On the very first page, for example, the words intriguing, annually, extraordinary, unique, cultivated, and nutritious are used. Not quite preschool stuff! But with a parent to interpret and paraphrase, the younger set--along with the older--should certainly eat this book up!

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