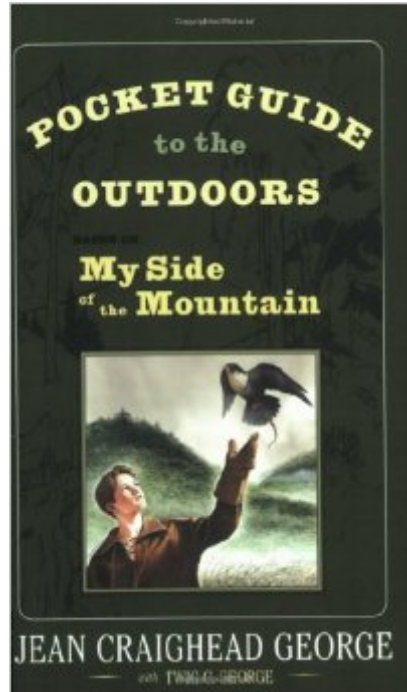


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# Pocket Guide To The Outdoors: Based On My Side Of The Mountain



## Synopsis

Generations of readers have escaped into the woods with *My Side of the Mountain*, the story of a city boy named Sam who learns to live in the wild. Now, Newbery winner Jean Craighead George offers an easy-to-follow guide for fans who want to live the adventure?just like Sam. Learn how to start a fire, build a shelter, catch a fish, identify useful plants, and much more. Hands-on activities are perfect for backyard campers or an afternoon stroll through the park. Illustrated with black-and-white drawings and packed with activities, naturalist trivia, and practical wilderness tips, this entertaining and informative handbook is your guide to outdoor fun.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0860 (What's this?)

Paperback: 144 pages

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Language: English

ISBN-10: 0525421637

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Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.5 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (28 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #62,098 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Camping](#) #37 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Survival Skills](#) #1153 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

*My Side of the Mountain* has always been one of my favorite books, and I have often thought that a field guide about all the things Sam does and uses would be great. So when I saw the book I just had to have it! The Original book had a few errors such as saying to watch what the animals eat and then eat that, but I figured the Pocket Guide would correct that! However when I started reading it the first thought I had was "have they ever even started a fire with a bowdrill?" On page 18 they state "Now cut a notch, almost, but not quite to the pit." Then on page 20 it states "As the wood heats it will make a small pile of coals. Move them gently until they come in contact with the tinder in the fire board notch. A small fire should start." A fire would never start this way, and the notch needs

to go almost, but not quite to the center of the pit. The friction rubs off wood that collects in the notch and when it gets hot enough becomes an ember. This ember is then transferred to the tinder and gently blown on until the flame starts. Sam uses the flint and steel in the original book exclusively to make fire and eludes to making char cloth, which wasn't even mentioned in the Pocket Guide! I was most disappointed in the plant section of the book! The Pocket Guide did show some Poisonous plants, and Medicinal plants that weren't used the MSOTM, however only about 9 plants that Sam mentioned using in the original book were shown, and I believe there are almost 40. Several of the plants I had never heard of such as, Pennyroyal, Teaberry, Snakeweed and Lousewort and I looked forward to learning more about them. But they weren't in the Pocket Guide!! I still really like the idea, and it is a good little book for what it is. But MSOTM was such a great book, that this one really suffers saying it was based on it! I am torn as to whether I would have bought this book had I know what was in it before buying!

I purchased this book to go along with the study I am doing with my boys (ages 8 &9) on "My Side of the Mountain". We love it! Although owning "My Side of the Mountain" is not a requirement to enjoying this book, it is a WONDERFUL resource to use in conjunction with the book. There are lots of pictures to help go along with what we are reading about in the book. The chapters are divided up into topics and not necessarily in story order with the main text. Chapters include: Camping, Shelters, Fire, Water, Fishing/Roadkill&Bugs, Outdoor Cooking, Edible Wild Plants, Poisonous Plants, Medicine Plants, Useful Knots, Animal Tracking, Birdsongs, Falconry, Hiking & Trailblazing, Finding Your Way, Outdoor Fun, Outdoor Safety, and Recipes. The author has mastery of these subjects by having lived these out in her own life, however, the book is NOT an exhaustive look at these subjects. For kiddos (and some adults) this book gives the perfect amount of information to begin the journey of exploring and surviving the Great Outdoors. Lots of details are given without getting too involved in each subject. It has been a great find for us and has been a lot of fun to see which topics appeal to each of my kiddos.

I bought 2 of these books. They were gifts for my grandsons. I have not read the book. But the boys are thrilled with it. Their ages are 11 and 12. They both love the outdoors and we go to the river as often as possible. I got lots of hugs and squeals of delight when I gave them their books. I would recommend this for all boys and girls who enjoy being outside.

This isn't a comprehensive guide to the outdoors, but it's a good start. The guide gives you a few

basics on a wide variety of topics. The information that is presented is true, and instructions are complete enough to follow. While some books in this genre were written years ago by people who had no concern for protecting the environment, the author does, on occasion, remind the reader that we need to be aware of what we're damaging when we cut branches and gather wild foods. I was eager to try some of the things I found, and curious to learn more. Now I'm excited about attending a primitive skills expo that's coming up soon. I actually used the book's excellent guide to knot tying in a little project I did today, replacing the drawstring on a hooded jacket. I tied off my work with clove hitches, using the illustrations in the guide. I didn't give the book 5 stars, because if I were going to carry one book into a wilderness existence, I would choose one that included more skills.

This book complements the book my grandson read as part of a Novel Project in the fifth grade. He enjoyed the novel, *My Side of the Mountain* very much by the same author and I thought he could extend the experience by having the *Pocket Guide to the Outdoors* to learn more about what it takes to survive. The pocket guide has a list of items for a basic survival kit, pictures of useful plants, instructions on fishing, cooking, how to build a fire and many other helpful ideas for having an adventure outdoors. I decided to include this guide with a starter survival kit for my grandson's 11th birthday. He was very excited and happy when he opened the gift and saw the book, he immediately identified the fact that it was written by the same author as his novel.

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