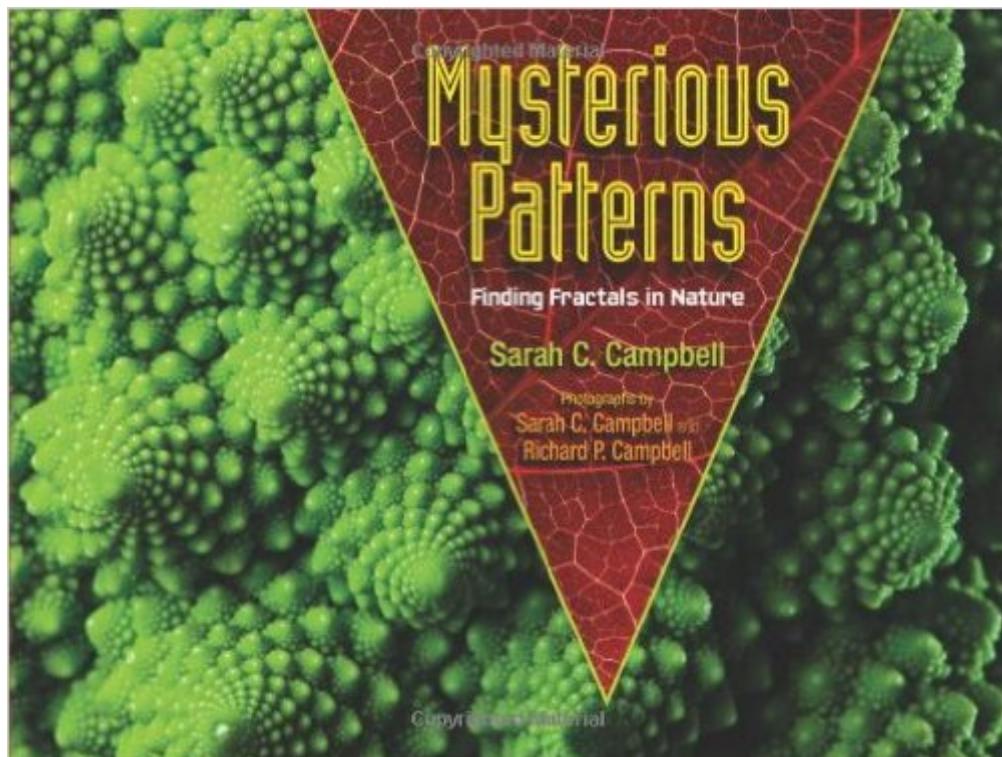


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# Mysterious Patterns: Finding Fractals In Nature



## **Synopsis**

Nature's repeating patterns, better known as fractals, are beautiful, universal, and explain much about how things grow. Fractals can also be quantified mathematically. Here is an elegant introduction to fractals through examples that can be seen in parks, rivers, and our very own backyards. Readers will be fascinated to learn that broccoli florets are fractals; just like mountain ranges, river systems, and trees; and will share in the wonder of math as it is reflected in the world around us. Perfect for any elementary school classroom or library, *Mysterious Patterns* is an exciting interdisciplinary introduction to repeating patterns.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1040L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 11.5 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #253,440 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Pure Mathematics > Fractals #168 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Earth Sciences #169 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Anatomy & Physiology

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

I have taught math for over 40 years and I love introducing complex math topics with concrete examples. Both *Mysterious Patterns: Finding Fractals in Nature* and *Growing Patterns: Fibonacci Numbers in Nature* are two of my favorite books to use with my middle school students. Students tend to think of mathematics as being arithmetic, just numbers. These books beautifully illustrate how mathematics manifests itself in nature. After reading this book, I never look at broccoli or Queen Anne's Lace the same way: they are a mathematical miracle manifested in nature. Sarah Campbell's books also use very precise terminology, but in a way that is easy to understand. That is

important for students to learn to discuss real mathematical problems with precise terms. And then there is the photography. Each photo makes the concept of fractals easier to understand and to marvel at. Recently I went hiking with my grandchildren in Great Smoky Mountain National Park. I enjoyed watching them pick up acorns, leaves, sticks, rocks, and marvel at the treasures they discovered. Sarah Campbell's books help me continue this conversation with my grand kids when we look at the beautiful photos in her books.

Charming book that teaches and illustrates a math concept that is not often taught in schools. I loved it, and would recommend it for grades K through 6. Teachers, librarians, grandparents, parents -- if you have a kid that loves math and you're struggling to think of a gift, this makes the perfect choice. It's unlikely that the child has ever seen anything like it before.

Sarah certainly doesn't shy away from tackling the tough subjects in math and science, making them accessible to bright young minds. *Mysterious patterns* takes on fractals! It's an enormous topic and this book offers a nice intro for budding geniuses. In fact, I often use Sarah's books (*Growing Patterns* too) to help explain these big ideas to my adult students!

This is a beautiful and simple introduction to fractals. The photo of mathematician Benoit Mandelbrot as a boy on one of the closing pages is a nice finishing touch. I checked *Mysterious Patterns* out of the library for my twelve year old, but everyone in the house has admired it. I hope this author/photographer team finds more ideas for similarly elegant books. (Hooray for the nameless librarian who suggested the fractals topic. Please, suggest some more.)

This is a great book to introduce the concept of fractals to young people. I read this book with my ten year old son who is a lover of math and we both enjoyed the content and the illustrations. How interesting that until 1975 there wasn't a name for fractals...

A terrific nonfiction book to introduce the fairly complex concept of fractals (shapes that have smaller parts that resemble the larger, overall shape). Clear text and well-chosen photos are the strong points. I might have given this 5 stars if the typeface and design felt more modern.

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