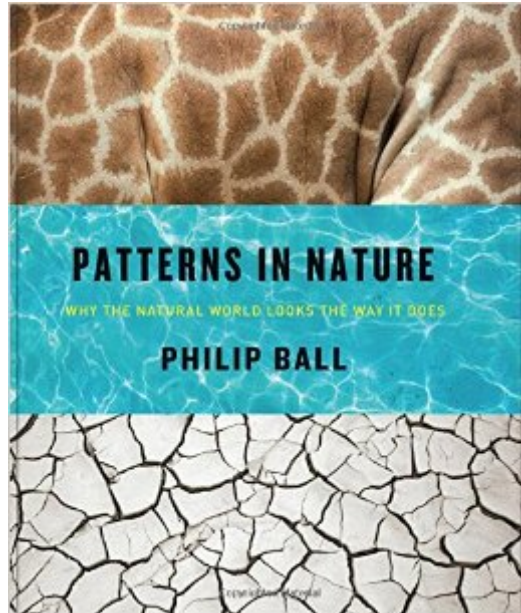


The book was found

# Patterns In Nature: Why The Natural World Looks The Way It Does



## Synopsis

Though at first glance the natural world may appear overwhelming in its diversity and complexity, there are regularities running through it, from the hexagons of a honeycomb to the spirals of a seashell and the branching veins of a leaf. Revealing the order at the foundation of the seemingly chaotic natural world, *Patterns in Nature* explores not only the math and science but also the beauty and artistry behind nature's awe-inspiring designs. Unlike the patterns we create in technology, architecture, and art, natural patterns are formed spontaneously from the forces that act in the physical world. Very often the same types of pattern and form – spirals, stripes, branches, and fractals, say – recur in places that seem to have nothing in common, as when the markings of a zebra mimic the ripples in windblown sand. That's because, as *Patterns in Nature* shows, at the most basic level these patterns can often be described using the same mathematical and physical principles: there is a surprising underlying unity in the kaleidoscope of the natural world. Richly illustrated with 250 color photographs and anchored by accessible and insightful chapters by esteemed science writer Philip Ball, *Patterns in Nature* reveals the organization at work in vast and ancient forests, powerful rivers, massing clouds, and coastlines carved out by the sea. By exploring similarities such as those between a snail shell and the swirling stars of a galaxy, or the branches of a tree and those of a river network, this spectacular visual tour conveys the wonder, beauty, and richness of natural pattern formation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I love this book. I'm planning to buy it. I got it from the library first because a lot of times I'm

disappointed in books that I don't see first. This is a gorgeous, high quality coffee table book with photos from nature on almost every page. There are chapters on symmetry, arrays, fractals, spirals, flow & chaos, waves & dunes, bubbles, cracks & spots and stripes. I highly recommend it!

This is a great book for non-scientists who are curious about how natural patterns develop. The color plates serve to amplify and demonstrate the test, although a larger screen is best for viewing them.

I love the photographs, but the writing is a little out of hand. I am a strong Christian & believe God is the creator of the universe. Obviously the author does not believe in God & tries to come up with very convoluted explanations for everything he sees. I am sorry he cannot accept the beauty in the universe as created by a being greater than himself.

Learned a lot about the scientific explanations for natural patterns..this will contribute exponentially to my design work and photographic compositing

Beautiful Book. Informative and wonderful photographs.

This is a very good book. There is an excellent marriage of Text and Images. Indeed most of the photographs are quite superb and the Text is highly informative. I am delighted with this book.

I got this book from the library to see if I wanted to purchase it. After reading through it, my decision is not to purchase it. While the photos in the book are generally of high quality, and nicely organized into the different types of patterns that occur in nature, the explanations of how such patterns form are pretty basic, and the vast majority of the photos can be easily found on the internet, from Shutterstock or Getty Images. As a nature photographer, I was hoping it would be for more original and new photographs, with explanations of how each was taken. Typically in a book like this, there is an appendix with photo credits organized by page. In this book, though, the photo credits are listed by the name or organization that took the photo. So if you want to know where a specific photo came from, you have to read through the entire list of photo credits until you find the one you want.

It's got some great pictures. There's not that much writing, which makes me wish that what was

there would be a little more entertaining. It's not bad, just not great.

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