
INTRODUCTION.

N**A****T****U****R****A****L** **H****I****S****T****O****R****Y** is a science both useful and entertaining : as it comprehends animals, vegetables, and fossils ; air, earth, and sea, with all their inhabitants and productions ; it may be said to include the knowledge of all nature, and to present an inexhaustible fund of inquiry and of amusement. It is intimately connected with all the other sciences ; and with all the arts, from the simplest and rudest, to the most complicated and the most elegant.

From an acquaintance with the economy of nature, many advantages have already accrued to man ; and from a more intimate knowledge of them, many more may still be derived. The comfort of all ranks may be said to depend on the knowledge of natural history. The husbandman needs to know the characters of the tame animals which he employs ; what advantages are to be derived from them ; whether there are others that