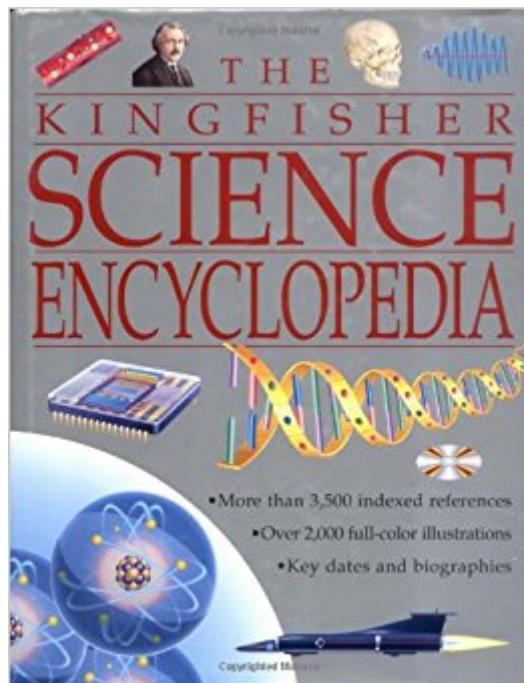


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# The Kingfisher Science Encyclopedia



## **Synopsis**

Today's children stand on the threshold of a new millennium that promises incredible scientific and technological advances. The need to understand basic scientific principles has never been greater and these principles are brought within the grasp of every child by The Kingfisher Science Encyclopedia. All the essential subject areas, from Space and Time, Materials and Technology, to Human Biology, are covered in this one-volume encyclopedia. Accurate, approachable, and an indispensable source of information for school projects, The Kingfisher Science Encyclopedia is the perfect gift for the up-and-coming Bill Gates, Albert Einstein, or Marie Curie in the family. Special Features: More than 3,500 indexed references. Thematic arrangement. Important events highlighted. Illustrated biographies of key figures. Cross-references. Comprehensive index. Glossary.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

A popular science resource last published in 2000 has received a small dose of updating. Arrangement is topical, with 10 chapters covering subjects such as "Planet Earth," "Human Biology," and "Conservation and the Environment." Within chapters, following a brief introduction, an average of 27 entries cover a variety of smaller topics. Most entries extend over two pages and are equal parts text and colorful photographs, drawings, diagrams, cutaways, and other illustrations that are sure to draw interest. Each chapter closes with a page of "Facts and Figures." All topics are

cross-referenced to entries containing related material. A "Ready Reference" section in the back of the volume includes units of measurement, conversion tables, geometric shapes, and brief descriptions of important scientists and discoveries. A two-page glossary has a sidebar devoted to computer terms. The topical arrangement makes a good table of contents and index essential. The table of contents is clearly laid out and easy to browse, but students may be frustrated by the index. Fourteen page references are provided for telescope and six for television, for example, but the pages for the sections that specifically deal with these topics are not called out in any way. We found most evidence of updating in the "Space and Time" chapter, where small portions of text related to space exploration have been revised, and the number of moons in the solar system has been changed to reflect recent discoveries. Changes have been made to the "Facts and Figures" pages; for example, several lists of "Key Dates" now include twenty-first-century advances. Providing students with current science material is essential, and though the volume has not been extensively revised, libraries should acquire it to replace the previous version. This attractive, browsable, reasonably priced encyclopedia definitely has a place beside titles offering more depth, such as the six-volume New Book of Popular Science. Mary Ellen Quinn Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved -- This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"This attractive, browsable, reasonably-priced encyclopedia definitely has a place..." (Booklist, ALA) "This authoritative resource contains an abundance of information on science and technology." - Books for Growing Minds "Middle graders will be so receptive to working on science homework with The Kingfisher Science Encyclopedia." - Teaching Pre-K-8 -- This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is our science centerpiece book for our homeschooled grammar stage kids. The plan is: we read a couple of pages appropriate to grade level (first is bio; second is earth sci/planetary sci; third is chemistry; fourth is physical science/computer science). The kids make a timeline of major events in science history (invention of microscope; "discovery" of gravity, etc.). We then head to the library for more books on the subject (ooh, dinosaur books...). Later, it's reports or dictation (again, based on grade level) and, after a couple of weeks, on to the next topic. This is a great science book to use as the basis of your curriculum because it's all there in one book. Rather than purchasing a different curriculum (with worksheets, etc.) for each grade, this book is used for all four years. Greatly reduces your costs! Good book, well put-together. See Well Trained Mind for more info on homeschooling your kid. If you're not homeschooling, this book is a great way to cement the cracks

in the education your kids may be receiving. Quite frankly, it's a great way to learn stuff YOU might have missed.

## LOVE IT

This is a very nice detailed encyclopedia. Filled with lots of info. Will be using with my home schooled children. Was recommended by the writer of the curriculum I am using.

This is a great book! This book is perfect for my 3rd grade classroom. My students really liked this book.

This is a book I wished I had had as a child. Science comes alive. My boys carry it around and casually read it, sharing new and exciting things they learn, and yes, they are generally new to me too. It allows the interested to see the vast topic of science in an unintimidating way. Add it to your library - this is our second copy. The first one was worn out!

The book has wonderful pictures and graphics. However - each subject is merely glanced over with little in depth coverage. It isn't very useful as a study resource unless you like to look at pictures.

For homeschooling (and indeed for any child who loves to learn), there are two names to look out for: Kingfisher and Usborne. Like the Kingfisher History Encyclopedia, the Science Encyclopedia forms a core study guide for homeschoolers. The book is divided into ten main sections, which gives you the option of concentrating on a broad topic, and picking out individual subjects within that topic. So there are 48 pages under 'Planet Earth' for example, and each subject is a manageable one or two pages long. That's perfect for the homeschooling family - the subjects are never too long to become tedious, but if your child wants to learn more, pick out another equally manageable subject and extend that day's science lesson a little. I've always agreed with the adage 'a picture paints a thousand words', and the illustrations in this book are first class. Kingfisher has really invested money and effort into these pictures, and they bring to life subjects which might otherwise be difficult to grasp. Science can be difficult to teach at home, partly because it's difficult and expensive to buy apparatus, chemicals, etc. So illustrations are key to understanding what would happen if you did the experiment yourself. I'm not saying that this is a substitute for practical work, but it's the best you will get without getting hands-on. If you DO have the equipment (and in some

cases you don't need much - for resonance find a glass and a wet finger!) the pictures enhance the learning experience. Like all encyclopedias of its type, realistically you should not expect to learn everything there is to know about the whole of science, but you really shouldn't be expecting that from a single volume. What you get here is the basic knowledge of physics, chemistry, biology, and other branches of science. These are the key to an understanding of the way science works. If you're using this book as part of the 'Well Trained Mind' homeschooling method (and if you haven't heard of it, look it up on ), this will serve your children well. I've not looked at other methods, but I can't imagine that you would want to overlook the book whatever route you take. Every 1 or 2-page subject should have your children (and you!) wanting to do further reading, which is what homeschooling is all about - giving them an appetite for learning. I mentioned Usborne, and their Science Encyclopedia is also a quality publication, which has a 'see for yourself' section in each subject - usually a simple experiment to complement the topic. Ideally you'd use both books together (the Kingfisher is 100 pages longer and thus covers more areas), and you will by no means be disappointed with either. I can't rate this book highly enough - as a general one-volume science book, it's hard to beat.

Oh my gosh, this arrived SO fast!!! Great book to have for your home school library. New, perfect condition, great price, and it arrived in about 2 days after I ordered it. Fantastic! (I think these books are over priced to begin with, and had best price possible). I wish we could use our teacher discounts on books at same as we can at other retailers. I'm still very happy tho!

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