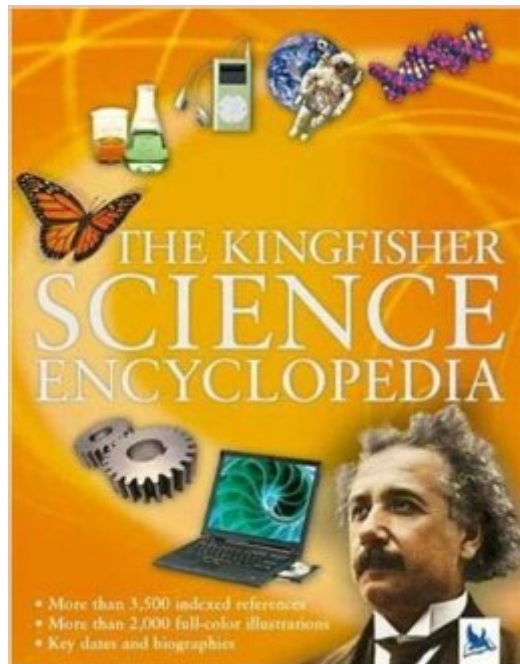


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# The Kingfisher Science Encyclopedia (Kingfisher Encyclopedias)



## Synopsis

With today's emphasis on fast-moving technology, as well as increasing pressure to meet the testing standards of science and math in the classroom, the need to grasp key scientific principles has never been greater. The Kingfisher Science Encyclopedia is the one reference that includes all of the information students need to know in today's fast-paced world. Clearly written and illustrated articles provide in-depth insight and concise authoritative information. An impressive reference section at the end of the book contains minibiographies of famous scientists, plus an illustrated time line of key inventions and discoveries. Arranged thematically into ten chapters, with reference summaries at the end of each chapter and a full index, the encyclopedia does more than merely provide facts about science and technology—it helps the reader think for him or herself, develop an enquiring mind, pose challenging questions, and explore new topics.

## Book Information

Series: Kingfisher Encyclopedias

Hardcover: 496 pages

Publisher: Kingfisher (May 10, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0753458861

ISBN-13: 978-0753458860

Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 8.7 x 1.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.9 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (15 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

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.

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 biol; 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.

Our family really enjoys the format of this book. The 10 thematic chapters seem more coherent than the old books alphabetic style. Concepts are tied together rather than merely a list of factoids. There are plenty of ways to look up information alphabetically. I have to say we much prefer this version. Great illustrations throughout. I wish the 10 volume set was available here.

...This new one is not really an encyclopedia. Instead of completely alphabetical it is alphabetical by subject, i.e., chemistry, botany, etc., and made topics very hard to find. The 2000 version also left out definitions/explanations.... I don't recommend the 2000 version at all. Sorry. As usual the second remake of something never seems to be as good as the first. END

I purchased this book because it is recommended in *The Well Trained Mind*. We will be using it in our home school next year. I love that it is laid out by subject area. It seems to be the perfect amount of information for elementary education. Lots of full color pictures and drawings.

I think this is an incredible book. Our grade school children like to discuss science facts at bedtime. Reading from this book opens up lots of topics for us and keeps the kids fascinated. I'm thinking of ordering more to use as gifts since the price is so reasonable and the shipping is free.

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!

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 unthreatening way. Add it to your library - this is our second copy. The first one was worn out!

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