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CK-12 Foundation's Life Science for Middle School FlexBook covers the following chapters: Studying Life- Nature of science: scientific method, tools used in science and safety in research. Introduction to Living Organisms- what they are, what they are made of, and classification. Introduces carbs, lipids, proteins, and nucleic acids. Cells and Their Structures- what they are, what they are made of, organelles and eukaryotic vs. prokaryotic. Cell Functions- active transport, passive transport, photosynthesis, and cellular respiration. Cell Division, Reproduction, and DNA- mitosis, meiosis, DNA, RNA, and protein synthesis. Genetics- Mendel's peas to gene therapy. Evolution- Darwin's natural selection, history of life and evidence of evolution. Prokaryotes- properties and characteristics. Protists and Fungi- properties, characteristics, reproduction and metabolism. Plants- nonvascular & vascular, gymnosperms & angiosperms and hormones/tropisms. Introduction to Invertebrates- sponges, cnidarians, and worms. Other Invertebrates- mollusks, echinoderms, arthropods, and insects. Fishes, Amphibians, and Reptiles- fishes, amphibians, and reptiles. Birds and Mammals- characteristics, properties, diversity and significance. Behavior of Animals- communication, cooperation, mating and cycles. Skin, Bones, and Muscles- skeletal, muscular and integumentary systems. Food and the Digestive System- nutrition and digestion. Cardiovascular System- heart, blood, vessels and cardiovascular health. Respiratory and Excretory Systems- breathing and elimination of waste. Controlling the Body- Nervous System. Diseases and the Body's Defenses- Diseases and the immune response. Reproductive System and Life Stages- Reproduction, fertilization, development and health. From Populations to the Biosphere- Ecology: Communities, ecosystems, biotic vs. abiotic factors, and biomes. Ecosystem Dynamics- Flow of energy, recycling of matter, and ecosystem change. Environmental Problems- Pollution, renewable vs nonrenewable resources, habitat destruction & extinction, and biodiversity. Glossary

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From Reader Review CK-12 Life Science for Middle School for online ebook

Dina says

CK-12 Life Science (Flexbooks Series)

Life Science - The Nature of Science

This is Ck-12 is a non-profit organization on a mission to reduce the cost of textbooks and publishes both hard copies and online versions which is why I selected this science book thinking it will be more easily accessible to the reader. There is a series of Life Science books for grades CK-12.

The series is called Life Science the middle school book I will review is titled "The Nature of Science".

There are 6 authors of this book, Jean Brainard, Niamh Gray-Wilson, Jessica Harwood, Corliss Karasov, Doris Kraus, and Jane Willan.

The lesson objectives of this book are that the reader will come to understand that science is a system based on evidence, testing, and reasoning. "Common sense" may seem to have all the answers, but science is all about following the evidence. So what is good evidence? The evidence is information that can be used to confirm or disprove an idea or to explain something. This series of science books purpose is to describe what the life sciences are, then show some of the many life science specialties.

The goal is that the reader will come to realize that science is a way of knowing about the physical world, based on observation, evidence, testing, predictions, and reasoning. All of this is for the purpose of helping us know what is going on in our world so we can protect and preserve ourselves and the world around us. This particular book in the series "The Nature of Science" covers many topics from organisms to humans and the human anatomy, diseases, animals, mammals, sea life, ecosystems and environmental problems to name a few. The Images in this book are exquisite they indeed help the reader grasp the concepts of this book. The target audience is the middle school but indeed this book is of value to high school students and adults. I do believe that the middle school students will find this science book and the others in this series, of great interest and nice learning tools for science education and discoveries.
