

### **What grades is this course designed to teach?**

This course is designed for middle school students. Depending on your student's academic level this could be as early as sixth grade or as late as eighth grade. A typical seventh grade student would be studying this subject.

### **How is this new edition different than the current edition of *Exploring Creation with General Science*?**

It is very different; we wanted to make this a truly transitional book from elementary science to high school science. To create a stepping stone science course successfully, we needed to rethink and rewrite how we instruct the student in note-taking success, the experimental processes, how to analyze and create graphic materials, how to think through and beyond the textbook materials, and essentially how to think logically and independently.

### **What does it cover?**

We cover broad areas of science to make it truly a *general* science course. Additionally, we start with the history of science and end with science and creation – the last module is written by 10 different contributing scientists who not only are specialists in their fields, but also have a firm belief that God created the heavens and the Earth.

### **What is in the Table of Contents?**

1. The History of Science
2. Scientific Inquiry and the Scientific Method
3. Documenting and Interpreting Experimental Results
4. Scientific Analysis and History
5. Earth Science – Astronomy
6. Earth Science – Geology and Paleontology
7. Earth Science – Meteorology and Oceanography
8. General Chemistry
9. General Physics
10. Life Science
11. General Biology
12. The Oceans of the Earth
13. Environmental Science
14. Science and Creation

### **Is the *Student Notebook* required? Why?**

The *Student Notebook* is required. Because middle school is the time that most students are formally introduced to note-taking, we've designed the new edition to interact with the student and *teach* them how to take proper notes. We do this in multiple ways such as the use of specially designed icons to let the student know when things are specifically required, interactive graphics in the student's notebook, as well as colored fonts to make important data stand out.

### **Are there experiments and lab reports?**

Yes, there are even *more* hands-on activities than the older editions.

- In addition to the required formal experiments, we've added optional *Explore More* sections that are quick and easy activities to help students truly comprehend the concepts they are learning about.
  - 29 formal experiments
  - 47 *Explore More* activities
- While students complete all activities, only one formal lab report is required per module. Students are given instruction on both informal and formal lab report writing techniques and will document all of their work in their notebooks. Don't worry, we walk through and explain every step and why it is important!

### **Are there exams?**

Yes. Exams are provided for the first 13 modules. Modules 1 and 2 are open book/open notebook exams so that students gain familiarity with test-taking and learn the importance of good note-taking. Module 14 has a fun Rube Goldberg activity in place of an exam.

### **Why did you replace the older edition?**

As with all science courses, we eventually *have* to update because new data is always being discovered. However, apart from that happening, we *wanted* to update this book. Middle school is a transition period where students are leaving elementary years and preparing for the rigors of high school science. We saw an opportunity to do something unique - focus on the student and help them *learn how to learn* in a methodical way that prepares them not just for future classes, but for life.

### **Can I use the old *Student Notebook* with this new edition?**

No. In addition to the fact that the materials covered in the new edition have changed, the new *Student Notebook* is specifically designed to complement the new edition.

### **Can I use the old textbook with the new *Student Notebook*?**

No. The format of the new edition is very different from the older editions.

### **Who is the author?**

Sherri Seligson is the author of *Exploring Creation with General Science*, 3rd edition. Sherri is also the author of Apologia's *Exploring Creation with Marine Biology* and the featured instructor on Apologia's Instructional Videos for *Exploring Creation with General Science*, *Exploring Creation with Biology*, *Exploring Creation with Chemistry*, *Exploring Creation with Advanced Biology*, and *Exploring Creation with Marine Biology*.

### **Why isn't Jay Wile an author?**

Jay Wile is no longer with Apologia. We have taken great care to select new authors you can trust when choosing an Apologia Science course. In addition, we have experts in the relevant scientific fields employed as technical editors for each Apologia title.

### **Does my student have to take *Exploring Creation with General Science* or can they skip to *Exploring Creation with Physical Science*?**

We do not recommend that your student skip this important course. Consider starting it early, in 6th grade, if your student is science oriented, or have them take this course in 8th grade. This course has been specifically designed to engage students and instruct them in how to learn, take notes, and write lab reports. These are all very important skills to master before you go on to high school science.

### **How much more difficult is this than the Young Explorer series – is it going to be a big leap?**

We took great care when redesigning this title to ensure that the course keeps your student as its priority. To do that, we changed several things. First, it is only 14 modules (down from 16 in the older editions). Second, it is studied 4 days a week rather than 5. You can rest assured that we thought of everything, tested it out on families with middle schoolers, and adapted it as needed. We even have the first 2 modules as open book tests so that the student is gently introduced to test-taking. This title is the perfect introduction to upper level science.

### **Why isn't there a companion CD?**

Because we have done our best to put all that you would need on our book extra site (it's free with each title), we have discontinued the companion CDs for revised titles.

### **What will the video instruction add to the course? Do I need it? Do you teach the course at the Apologia Online Academy?**

Because students are unique individuals, we need to recognize that each student learns in a personal way.

- Some students are independent learners and require minimal interaction. If your student is in this category, all that is required is the student textbook, notebook, and solutions manual. We do all the planning for you and make it easy for your student to know what is expected of them on a day-to-day basis. And we make it easy for you to monitor their progress as well.
- Some students are more visual learners and like the interaction of video. If your student is in this category, you should consider the instructional videos. Sherri Seligson teaches each section of the course with the use of slides and animations to develop and demonstrate concepts further of the course. She also travels the world and has video footage of unique areas that help students comprehend what they are learning. Perhaps one of the most functional portions of the videos, and everyone's favorite, is that Sherri does every experiment and *Explore More* activity found in the textbook.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Exploring Creation with  
General Science, Third Edition*

- Some students do better with direct instruction and the ability to interact with other students as well as ask questions of an instructor. If your student is in this category, you will want to check out our Apologia Online Academy. With options for live or recorded classes that are graded and provide interaction, this could be the best fit for you and your student.

### **How long will it take to complete this course – how many days a week?**

This course is designed to be done 4 days a week. There are 14 modules. It is a full school year course, with plenty of room for your family to adapt the schedule to fit your needs.

### **About how long is each lesson?**

Your student should plan to spend about one hour per lesson. Some lessons may take a little longer and some may be shorter, but the average is one hour.

### **Is there a kit for this course? Where can I purchase it?**

While Apologia does not have a specific kit for this course, there are several companies that do create kits to accompany our science titles. We do, however, try our best to use common household items or items that can easily be found in a grocery or hardware store. We also provide an extensive list of what you need to do each activity so that with a little bit of preplanning, you can easily get through this course.

### **Can I still get the 2nd edition course?**

There will always be used book sales and companies that sell older books. But, unlike things that get better with age, science is a topic you want to keep up-to-date. We don't recommend that you use an old version because new discoveries are made all the time. Apologia works hard to make science affordable to every student.

### **Is there a daily schedule to go by for the course?**

Yes, the course is planned out from the time you open the front cover until you close the back cover. Students (and parents) can easily see and understand what each day's assignment will be. A course schedule is found at the front of the required *Student Notebook*.

### **Does my student have to do every lab, experiment, or activity?**

The honest answer is that as the homeschooling parent, you decide what you require of your student; at a bare minimum, you should consider requiring your student to do one formal lab per module. If you want your student to get the most out of the course, we highly recommend your student complete all of the exercises in the textbook. There are 29 formal experiments and 47 optional *Explore More* activities.

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Trust us; we are homeschooling parents too. We didn't add materials that would bore your students or raise the frustration levels in your home. We created the hands-on component to enhance your student's experience, and we tested each of them in multiple homeschool settings.

Science is so much more than a textbook. You can read facts and look at graphs, but until you experience an "Aha Moment" in the lab, science isn't "owned." And don't worry if an experiment doesn't go just right; it rarely does in any science lab! Learning what doesn't work is just as important as understanding what does work. Once your student is done with the hands-on component, we'll walk them through the process of documenting their experience. From formal lab reports to connecting science to creation, we've got you and your student covered.

### **Where do I find the answers to On Your Own, Study Guide, and Exam Questions?**

The answers to the On Your Own questions are in the textbook at the back of each module. These sections help your student self-check comprehension before moving on. On Your Own questions are not graded.

The answers to the Study Guide questions are in the course *Test and Solutions Manual*. These sections help your student prepare for the exam. The Study Guide questions are not graded.

The answers to the Exam questions are in the course *Test and Solutions Manual*. Exam questions are graded.

### **Why aren't answers provided for the Student Notebook note-taking section?**

While it might seem like there should be "answers" to questions and prompts found in the student notebook, we do not provide specific answers on purpose. Note-taking is a skill that must be learned. We designed this course so that the first 2 exams are open book - meaning that students can use their textbook and notebooks when answering questions. We encourage them to evaluate their note-taking efforts. Were their notes helpful in the exam? If yes, they are capturing the important information. If no, they need to learn to pull information out of the textbook. Don't worry, we help them there too. Using colored text and prompts to steer them in the right direction, we essentially walk your student through the note-taking experience.

We encourage parents to review their student's notebook to make sure that their student is properly engaged, however student notes should never be graded. Offer encouragement if you see your student struggling. Ask them to review with you what they are learning. Mentor to them how you took notes at their age. You will see that with each notebook module we offer tips and hints. By the time your student finishes the course, you'll see highlighting and colored fonts, personal thoughts expanded and explored, and a true knowledge on how to personalize, capture, and understand new knowledge.

### **Do we need a microscope?**

No