



Exploring Creation with Physical Science, 3rd Edition
Frequently Asked Questions

What grades is this course designed to teach?

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

Can it be used for high school credit in 9th grade?

This course is rigorous in content and has a lab component, so it could be used in 9th grade for high school credit. Students should, for a strong college application, plan to take at least Biology, Chemistry, and Physics in high school. Those students who want to pursue a college career with a science background should have the opportunity in 12th grade to take an advanced science course. Those students who do not anticipate that they will be pursuing science careers should still plan to take Biology, Chemistry, and Physics in high school, leaving 12th grade open to an elective that best fits the student's goals. A strong foundation in the high school sciences is required for college entrance and is an excellent foundation to have in life. Students should have a basic understanding of how the world works so they are prepared to interpret all of the information discovered in their lifetimes.

I did not use *Exploring Creation with General Science* with my student in 7th grade. Should my student complete *General Science*, 3rd Edition in 8th grade before using *Exploring Creation with Physical Science*, 3rd Edition?

There are no prerequisites for *Exploring Creation with Physical Science*, and *Exploring Creation with General Science* is not required for a student to complete *Physical Science* in 8th grade. That said, we highly recommend that parents introduce their students to the middle school sciences in 7th and 8th grades (elementary courses should not go beyond 6th grade).

What are the math prerequisites?

There are no math prerequisites.

Can I use *Exploring Creation with Physical Science*, 3rd Edition, in 7th grade?

If you have a student who loves all things science, we highly encourage you to introduce your student to the middle school sciences a year early. This would mean *General Science* in 6th grade, *Physical Science* in 7th grade and *Biology*, *Chemistry*, and *Physics* in 8th - 10th grades. This course sequence would allow plenty of time for your student to either take an advanced science course in your homeschool or to enroll for dual-credit at a community college in 11th and 12th grade. Many Apologia students successfully enter university with college credit because they were dual-enrolled or placed out of courses via exams.

How is this new edition different than the current edition of *Exploring Creation with Physical Science*? How are these changes helpful to the student?

We modified the textbook to fit our middle school goals. In *Physical Science*, 3rd Edition, we made the new edition 15 modules (rather than 16) to build the student's confidence to tackle a 16-module science textbook in high school. In addition, there is all new content that makes this a true physical science course that focuses on chemistry (4 modules) and physics (6 modules). In addition, this course shows how chemistry and physics are integral to understanding earth science (2 modules) and life science (1 module). The first module reviews science basics and the last module covers how to do science research and write a science paper. All of this will prepare students for more in-depth study of biology, chemistry, and physics in high school. You'll find all new photos and graphics, as well as updated experiments and tests.

Is the 3rd Edition more difficult than the 2nd Edition?

No

What does *Exploring Creation with Physical Science*, 3rd Edition, cover?

Exploring Creation with Physical Science, 3rd Edition, was rethought entirely and rewritten with your student in mind. It is not the same as the old version and covers more physical science information in fewer modules than the older version, making it the perfect introduction to the high school sciences.

Second Edition

- The Basics
- Air
- The Atmosphere
- The Wonder of Water
- The Hydrosphere
- Earth and the Lithosphere
- Factors that Affect Earth's Weather
- Weather and Its Prediction
- An Introduction to the Physics of Motion
- Newton's Laws
- The Forces in Creation - Part 1
- The Forces in Creation - Part 2
- The Forces in Creation - Part 3
- Beyond
- Waves and Sound
- Light
- An Introduction to Astrophysics

Third (new) Edition

- Science - The Basics
- Chemistry - Properties and States of Matter
- Chemistry - Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table
- Chemistry - Chemical Bonds
- Chemistry - Reactions and Energy
- Physics - Motion
- Physics - Forces
- Physics - Energy
- Physics - Waves and Sound
- Physics - Light
- Physics - Electricity and Magnetism
- Earth Science - Our Earth
- Earth Science - Our Atmosphere and
- Chemistry and Physics in the Life Sciences
- Physical Science Research

What is in the Table of Contents?

You may view the table of contents at Apologia.com.

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 suggested Daily Schedule is found at the front of the *Student Notebook*.

Is the *Student Notebook* required? Why?

The *Student Notebook* is not required, although it is highly recommended. The notebook will:

- a. Help your student become independent in his or her study assignments
- b. Teach your student how to become an effective note taker
- c. Teach your student how to correctly create a lab report

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.

There are 29 formal experiments and 47 "Explore More" activities.

While students complete all activities, only one formal lab report is required per module. Students are instructed 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 essential!

Are the labs the same?

All labs have been updated to ensure they are clearly understood. Some new materials were added as well.

Are there exams?

Yes, there are exams.

Why did you replace the older edition?

As with all science courses, we eventually 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.

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. With a little bit of preplanning, you can easily get through this course.

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 completes all of the exercises in the textbook. 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 encourage students to evaluate their note-taking skills after each exam. Were their notes helpful in the exam? If yes, they are capturing important information. If not, they need to learn to pull more 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, you do not need a microscope for this course.

When will the video instruction be available?

This course has yet to be developed. We recommend our Physical Science 3rd Edition Course from Apologia's Online Academy.

When will the audio be available?

The audiobook will be available Summer 2020.