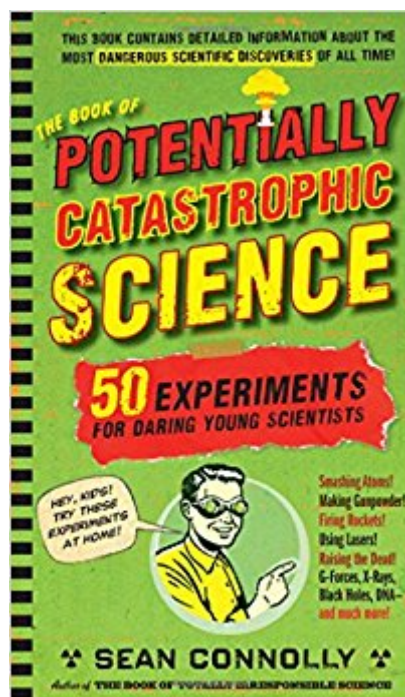




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# The Book Of Potentially Catastrophic Science: 50 Experiments For Daring Young Scientists (Irresponsible Science)



## Synopsis

It's never been more important to engage a child's scientific curiosity, and Sean Connolly knows just how to do it with lively, hands-on, seemingly "dangerous" experiments that pop, ooze, crash, and teach! Now, the author of *The Book of Totally Irresponsible Science*, takes it one step further: He leads kids through the history of science, and then creates amazing yet simple experiments that demonstrate key scientific principles. Tame fire just like a Neanderthal with the Fahrenheit 451 experiment. Round up all your friends and track the spread of "disease" using body glitter with an experiment inspired by Edward Jenner, the vaccination pioneer who's credited with saving more lives than any other person in history. Rediscover the wheel and axle with the ancient Sumerians, and perform an astounding experiment demonstrating the theory of angular momentum. Build a simple telescope just like Galileo's and find the four moons he discovered orbiting Jupiter (an act that helped land him in prison). Take a less potentially catastrophic approach to electricity than Ben Franklin did with the Lightning Mouth experiment. Re-create the Hadron Collider in a microwave with marshmallows, calculator, and a ruler—it won't jeopardize Earth with a simulated Big Bang, but will demonstrate the speed of light. And it's tasty! By letting kids stand on the shoulders of Aristotle, Newton, Einstein, the Wright brothers, Marie Curie, Darwin, Watson and Crick, and more, *The Book of Potentially Catastrophic Science* is an uncommonly engaging guide to science, and the great stories of the men and women behind the science.

## Book Information

Series: Irresponsible Science

Hardcover: 306 pages

Publisher: Workman Publishing Company (May 5, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761156879

ISBN-13: 978-0761156871

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1.2 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #250,710 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Science & Technology > Experiments & Projects

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-10 Perhaps picking up on a trend started by Conn and Hal Iggulden's *The*

Dangerous Book for Boys (Collins, 2007), this volume features a sensational title and lurid, retro cover art that might suggest a shallow and gimmicky package, once cracked. It's not. Instead, the content is solid and compelling. The premise is that all of humankind's greatest milestones in science and engineering have entailed risks and courage on the part of the innovators. Starting with Stone Age tools and ending with a Hadron Collider, each chapter details a historic leap forward in scientific understanding and explains what the potential downsides of those discoveries were. Potential catastrophic consequences include persecution for heresy, the very real risks of self-injury or death in the process of discovery, and the reality that almost every beneficial scientific discovery can also be tapped to create efficient means for humans to kill one another. As such, it's an illuminating survey. Unfortunately, kids who see the cover urging them to "try these experiments at home" and listing them as "smashing atoms, making gunpowder, firing rockets, and raising the dead," might be a little disappointed when the actual "experiments" turn out to be tamer— and sometimes lamer— analogous demonstrations of the concepts put forth in each chapter. Jeffrey Hastings, Highlander Way Middle School, Howell, MI © Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From the author of *The Book of Totally Irresponsible Science* (2008), this volume approaches science historically, spotlighting certain periods, processes, individuals, discoveries, and inventions. Each of the 34 chapters includes a discussion and one or two related activities, such as making a Stone Age tool, creating an earthquake in Jell-O, building a parachute for an egg drop, and extracting a banana's DNA. Safety concerns are addressed for each project, and adult help will be necessary to complete some of the experiments successfully. Though the photos and cartoon-style drawings work well, several elements of the book's design are off-putting: the use of pistachio-green and purplish-gray background colors on the pages, the occasional graph-paper-like squares underlying the text, and the small black squares running up the pages' outer margins. While there is no back matter, not even an index, Connolly's writing is engaging, and the historical approach works well, offering kids a quick introduction to science history and the opportunity to explore certain ideas along the way. Grades 5-8. --Carolyn Phelan

The title alone is worth the cost. Great experiments with household items. Easy read for your budding scientist, my Scouts loved it.

Gifted this book to my eight year old nephew who loves science. I must say the moment he started

to read the book he was hooked on to it. A good buy at a good price.

My 12 year old has had a lot of fun with this book.

My nine year old son bought this for his 11 y.o. brother for Christmas. The book has a fun and playful layout which my son loves. The explanations that come with the experiments make me happy (Dad) and the experiments' fun factor make the boys happy.

Purchased this as part of a gift for my nephews and they love it! Highly recommend this book. Made a great gift!

Item is as described. Fast shipper! Thanks!

my nephews loved this!

Wonderful just for the title.....

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