

Daily Assignments

The daily assignments are built into the layout of the textbook. You will basically spend seven days in a given two-week period reading and doing experiments. You will then spend two days answering the questions in the chapter review. Finally, you'll spend one day taking the test.

This book is made up of 16 chapters. The first one is shorter than the others, because it is a general introduction to science and to the process of documenting experiments. Each chapter contains reading and experiments that you need to complete as well as questions you must answer. You are supposed to perform the experiments when they come to you in the reading, because right after the experiment, I will discuss what the experiment means.

The questions that you answer while you are reading are called "Comprehension Check" questions, and they represent important milestones in your work. Each time you reach a "Comprehension Check" box, you are at the end of the day's lesson. You need to answer the questions and then check your answers against the answers that appear right before the Review at the end of the chapter. Once you check your answers and understand anything you answered incorrectly, you are done with science for the day!

Most of the chapters have seven "Comprehension Check" boxes, which means you will use seven school days to work through each chapter. Some of those days will consist of reading, and some of them will consist of less reading and an experiment to do. At the end of those seven days, you need to spend a day or two answering the questions in the Review that appears at the end of each chapter. Your parent/teacher has the answers to those questions, but you should not use them until you have completed the entire Review. Feel free to use the book to help you with the Review.

Once you have finished answering and checking all your answers to the review questions, you are ready to take the test that covers the chapter you have been working on. You cannot use your book for the test, but you can use a calculator if the test has any math-related questions in it. Also, once you learn about the Periodic Table of the Elements, you are free to use that on any test. It is on page 54 as well as the inside cover of the book.

As you read, you will see some statements and equations that are centered and surrounded by pink boxes. You must memorize any information that you see in the pink boxes. In addition, there are definitions that are centered in the text. They also need to be committed to memory. Finally, there are some words in boldface type scattered through the text. Those are terms with which you need to be familiar. In the same way, some scientists' names will be in boldface type. They represent the most important scientists that are being discussed.

Most students should try to cover this course in one year of school. If you think about it, all of the Chapters but the first have seven "Comprehension Check" boxes, which means it will take seven days to get through all but the first chapter. After that, suppose you spend two days working on the Review and studying for the test. Then on the next day, you take the test. That means it would take ten school days (two weeks of school) to cover the chapter. The first chapter is shorter, so that means you would take less than 32 weeks to finish the entire book. Most school years are 36 weeks long, so you have some built-in "flex time" in case some chapters are harder for you than others.