

Title ***Exploring Creation with General Science, 2nd Edition***
ISBN 978-1-932012-86-6 (student text) 978-1-932012-87-3 (Solutions & Tests)

Science Credits	Junior High
Lab Credits¹	Yes
Honors Designation²	No
Science Type	Life

This junior high school, laboratory-based science course offers the student a general introduction to the methodology and concepts of science. It begins with a brief overview of the history of science so that students see how science actually operates. It then discusses the scientific method, how scientific experiments are designed, and the limitations of science. The student then learns about experimental variables and how they are used to analyze experiments through a series of laboratory exercises.

Once the student understands the scientific method and its limitations, the text discusses the distinctions among science, applied science, and technology. Technology is discussed in the context of the simple machines (lever, wheel and axle, pulley, and inclined plane).

The student is then given a firm grounding in how history is treated as a field of scientific inquiry, with special emphasis given to archaeology and the analysis of historical texts. After that, the student learns the fundamentals of geology so that he or she can then investigate the fossil record in order to understand the history of life on this planet. Both the uniformitarian and catastrophism interpretations of geology are discussed, and they are then contrasted. The student is made aware of the scientific problems that exist within the context of both interpretations.

After learning about the history of life, the student is ready to learn about the nature of life itself. The characteristics of living systems are discussed, including DNA, reproduction, energy conversion, and irritability. The student then learns about the three basic types of cells (prokaryotic, animal, and plant) and how biologists classify living organisms in the five-kingdom system.

The human body is then used as a “model” for a living organism. The student learns about the human skeletal, digestive, respiratory, circulatory, lymphatic, endocrine, urinary, and nervous systems. Along the way, the student learns about the macronutrients and micronutrients, metabolic rates, skin, and comparative anatomy.

There are 53 experiments in the course, which correspond to approximately 35 hours of laboratory work. The student is taught how to record his or her experiments in a laboratory notebook, which will become important for high school.