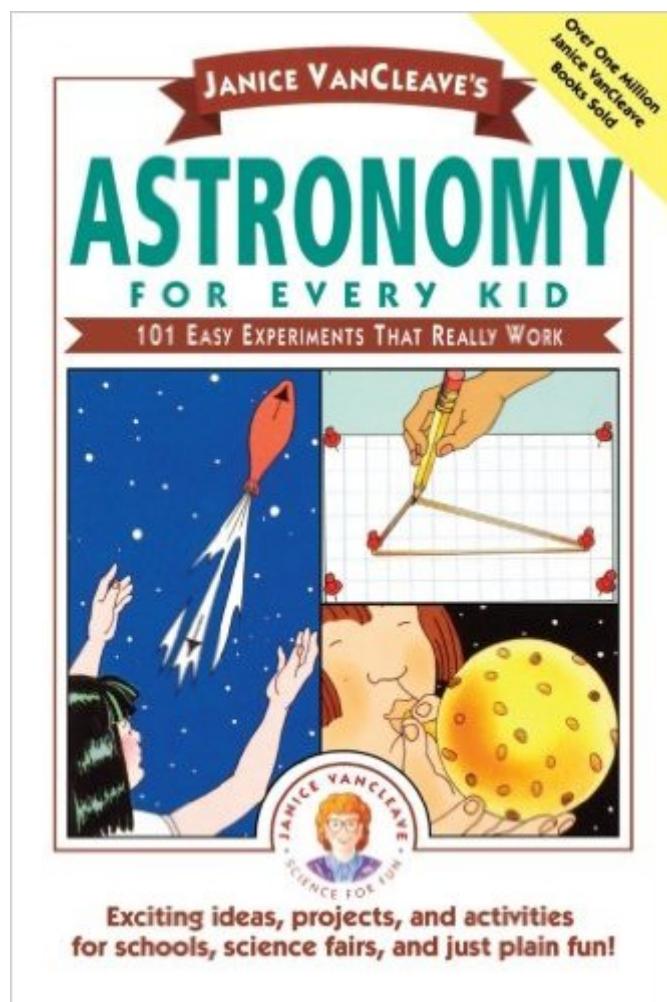


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# Janice VanCleave's Astronomy For Every Kid: 101 Easy Experiments That Really Work



## **Synopsis**

Why do planets spin? How hot is the Sun? What keeps the Moon in orbit around the Earth? What are Saturn's rings made of? What's a black hole in space? Now you can discover the answers to these and other fascinating questions about basic astronomy. In *Astronomy for Every Kid* you'll learn about the constellations using a shoe box planetarium. You'll chart the movement of the stars with nothing but a string, a marker, and a nail. And you'll use a toy magnet to simulate the Earth's protective force field. Each of the 101 experiments is broken down into its purpose, a list of materials, step-by-step instructions, expected results, and an easy to understand explanation. Every activity has been pretested and can be performed safely and inexpensively in the classroom or at home. Also available in this series from Janice VanCleave:*Biology for Every Kid**Chemistry for Every Kid**Dinosaurs for Every Kid**Earth Science for Every Kid**Geography for Every Kid**Geometry for Every Kid**The Human Body for Every Kid**Math for Every Kid**Physics for Every Kid*

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 920L (What's this?)

Paperback: 240 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (21 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

I am never disappointed by a Janice VanCleave Book! This book lends itself well to experimenting with earth science using the scientific method. It outlines the purpose, materials needed, procedure, results expected, and explanation of results for each experiment. Experiments are included in the

areas of space, rocks and minerals, movement of the earth's crust, erosion, atmosphere, weather, and ocean. The best thing is that they use common, easy to obtain materials! I use these books in my classroom a lot!

This book looks like it tried too hard to be about astronomy. It takes reasonable experiments about basic scientific principles and tacks on explanations related to astronomy that ignore other factors (i.e. both reflectivity and distance from the sun are separately listed as the reason a planet is hotter when Venus is neither the darkest nor the closest), are overly obscure, or just plain wrong (appearance of 'the man in the moon' caused by shadows). I have worked in an astronomy museum for six years, and this book has me pausing to try and comprehend what the book is trying to do. I am not familiar with the other Janice VanCleave books, but I specifically recommend AGAINST this one.

This book is a big disappointment. I don't know very much about astronomy, but I have done a lot of experiments with my kids. The better experiments in this collection are basic scientific experiments we have done before with a page of explanation on how it relates to astronomy...or how it is a simulation of something in astronomy, which I feel is misleading to the kids. Other experiments are not even experiments, but demonstrations of things so obvious that most kids can visualize them without a demonstration. For example, stirring tea leaves in a jar with a pencil to simulate a hurricane on Jupiter. Only one experiment sounded interesting--a sun dial that can act as a compass. But wait! The compass is only accurate two days out of the year, and there is no explanation of the science behind the experiment. I want my money back!!!!

This book is wonderful. It gives you the experiments and provides explanations for the results. I have five and six year old sons and they love the experiments from this book. I'm buying it after renewing it at the library several times.

I teach 7th grade Earth Science; even though this book is geared towards 3rd-6th grade, so many of the activities are useful demos and short hands-on activities to deepen the learning of my students. I love the set-up of the book: it is divided into the various divisions of Earth Science (astronomy, rocks and minerals, oceans, etc) and has a TON of experiments in each section. They are all easy to do; most use materials from around the house. The few that don't use materials that are easy to find at any store. Each experiment is supplemented by a simple, yet very clear illustration, easy-to-follow

steps, and an explanation of why the experiment works the way it does. If you teach middle school, VanCleave's books are great to have!!

I was hoping for experiments that I could do with my kids. The experiments in this book are really just short demonstrations. Most of the experiments are so minimal and include things like ripping a paper towel to show how some minerals have a definite cleavage line or marking on a balloon and showing how the marks expand when the balloon is inflated. I don't think I will have much use for this book.

Cute little book. All experiments really can be done by kids. Target audience given as 8-12 y.o., although many are probably too simplistic for upper end of that range. It might even be useful for some even younger. I won't quibble with some discussions or explanations, as others have, because it will accomplish the goal of getting kids to think about the world and how it works. Seller identified the item as "used, very good condition", which I think was conservative. When I opened it I thought it was new!

I absolutely love these book. The project are so simple and versatile. If I dont have all the stuff for one it is easily combined with another project and the result is always so fun. My children love these projects.

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