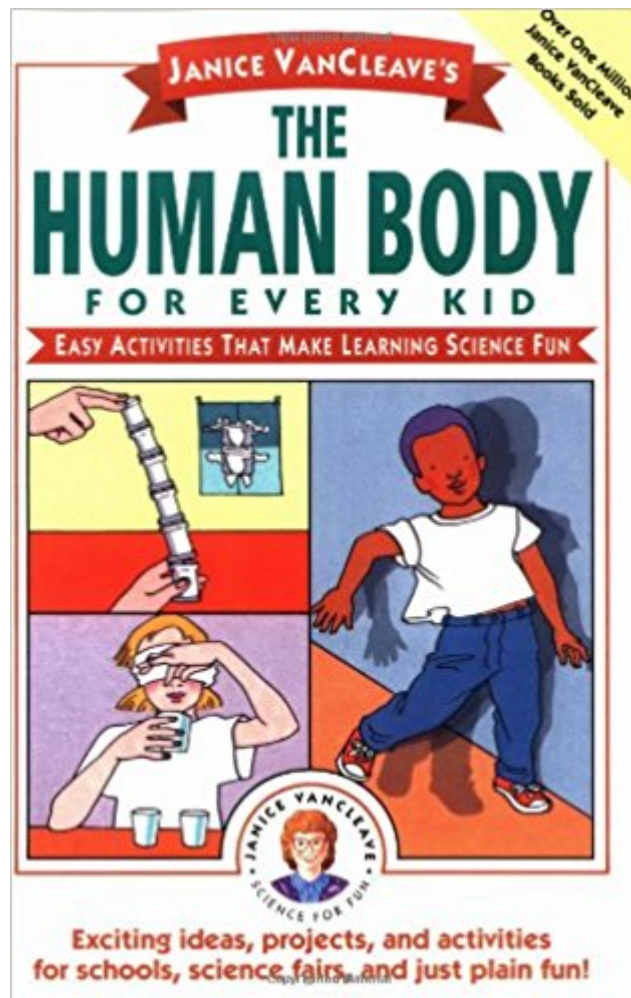




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Janice VanCleave's The Human Body For Every Kid: Easy Activities That Make Learning Science Fun



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Synopsis

What makes the heart beat faster or slower? How do tightrope walkers keep their balance? Why does spinning fast cause dizziness? Explore the mysteries and the workings of the human body through this fascinating collection of ideas, projects, and activities. Have fun while you learn about everything from the body's basic building blocks to how the brain receives messages from other parts of the body. Make a model of a human cell that you can eat for dessert. Make a working model of a human lung from a soda bottle, a balloon, and a garbage bag. Through these and other activities, you'll find out how your lungs supply air to your blood and your heart pumps blood throughout your body; how your body sees, hears, feels, smells, and tastes the world around it; how you lose and regain up to five pounds of skin every year; and much more. Most of the materials you need are already part of you; the rest you will easily find around the house or classroom. Every activity has been "child tested" and can be performed safely and cheaply in the classroom, at a science fair, or at home. Also available in the series from Janice VanCleave: Astronomy for Every Kid 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 Math for Every Kid Physics for Every Kid Kids.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-7? This science activity book not only provides simple, easy-to-follow demonstrations, but also is a solid resource for learning about the workings of the human body. Projects utilize readily

available materials, but an additional person is often needed?as an assistant or a guinea pig. The basics of cell structure; the senses; the respiratory, circulation, digestive, and skeletal systems; and genetics are covered. Each section provides a careful explanation of the activity, background information needed to understand the concepts involved, step-by-step instructions, and an analysis of the solution. The text is clearly written; simple, black line drawings and diagrams are used throughout. Robert Gardner's *Science Projects About the Human Body* (Enslow, 1993) contains similar material, but Van Cleave's book is more thorough in explaining concepts and getting students involved. A useful addition to science-experiment sections.?Cynthia M. Sturgis, Ledding Library, Milwaukee, Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 5[^]-7. Like others in the author's ongoing *Science for Every Kid* series, this is much more than a book of experiments. Here, VanCleave introduces various systems in the human body and explains how they function, reinforcing the facts through simple experiments and a variety of thought-provoking exercises. The experiments and exercises, which sometimes require readers to draw a conclusion from an accompanying illustration, are not equally challenging. In fact, some are too easy for the age group. Still, there's lots of good information here, and VanCleave doesn't shy away from scientific terms, which she defines with care. Plentifully illustrated, the book will draw both science-minded students and their teachers. An extensive glossary is appended. Stephanie Zvirin --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I teach 7th-12th grade; at the 11th/12th grade level, I teach anatomy. I have been searching for fun, easy, hands-on activities to throw into my lessons. I knew this book was for grades 5-7 when I bought it, but I thought that I might be able to find a few useful ideas (big kids are just little kids at heart!). Well, I didn't, but that's ok because I knew that might happen when I bought it. However, I can still review the book for use with elementary/middle school kids since I teach middle school too. When I read through the book, I was struck by the amount of detail the author uses in explaining how various aspects of the body work. In reading some of the other reviews of the book, people commented on the discrepancies between the level of the activities and the level of the scientific information. I think if you plan to use this with a younger crowd- say, 5th-6th grade- yes, the scientific information may be over their heads, but the experiments are at their level. The information you teach with it can always be brought down to their level, and the more "complex" info can be saved for parents/teachers/gifted and talented students who want to understand the info at a deeper level. As for using the book with middle school kids- I teach 7th grade Earth Science, but if I taught a

life science course and covered the human body, I wouldn't see a problem using this with 7th/8th graders. Some of the experiments would be TOO simple, but they can always be modified to be more complex. As for the information about how the body works, I think that it is more at their level. So, I give this book 4 stars. If there was a little more consistency between the complexity of the information and the activities, I would give it a full 5 stars. However, the discrepancy is also somewhat helpful- then you can use this book at various levels and modify it to fit the needs of your kids as you go.

My kids love doing all the experiments in this book for science. I use a science curriculum for our homeschooling, then use this book to add on. I love how most of the experiments are low cost if no cost at all. Most science (homeschool) curriculum has a lot of money involved. Nice to have great experiments without the high cost.

I'm a former science teacher turned homeschool mom and I'm using this book to study the human body with my kids (grades 1 and 3). I admit that the text in the book is probably advanced for them, but we read through the sections paragraph by paragraph and sort out what they are talking about. The drawings in the book are really well done and help in explaining what the chapter is talking about. I would have given the book five stars if it weren't for what seems to me to be a mismatch between complexity of the text and the simplicity of the activities. My children are very excited about the activities and get a lot of science out of them. But, I think that older kids that would understand the text right away might be bored with the majority of the activities.

All of Janice VanCleave books are well worth the money. This one is no different. The explanations are concise and to the point AND easily understood. But what I love most about her books are the experiments are actually doable with what is around most homes (paperclips, pencils, paper, toilet paper tubes, water, rubber bands....things like this). These books are written to the child but not in a childish tone. Highly recommend any of her "Every kid" books.

I am a biology teacher in a middle school, and I believe the book is a little out of fashion and the activities are not so attractive for the current students. In addition, I think there are better activities available online.

The first 30 pages of the book were missing. What a disappointment.

Book in great shape and great price too.

For our homeschool curriculum. Excellent.

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