

Apologia's Young Explorer Series

An elementary science curriculum that is truly God honoring, user friendly, and scientifically sound

Q. What titles are available in the Young Explorer Series?

A. There are currently seven science titles available:

- Exploring Creation with Astronomy
Students learn about the major structures of our solar system, starting with the sun and working outwards, eventually covering the stars and galaxies that make up God's incredible universe. Your student will learn also about space travel and what it takes to be an astronaut.
- Exploring Creation with Botany
Students learn about the classification of plants, the development of plants from seeds, the plant reproduction process, the way plants make their food, and how plants get their water and nutrients and distribute them throughout the body of the plant.
- Exploring Creation with Zoology 1: Flying Creatures of the Fifth Day
Children begin exploring the dynamics of flight and animal classification, learning why the design we see in these incredible creatures points us to our Creator God.
- Exploring Creation with Zoology 2: Swimming Creatures of the Fifth Day
This title takes students on an underwater journey to explore the underwater wonders of creation. From the microscopic to massive, no reef is left unturned in your students' passage through the waters of the world.
- Exploring Creation with Zoology 3: Land Animals of the Sixth Day
Students "go on a safari" through jungles, deserts, forests, farms and even your own backyard to explore, examine, and enjoy the enchanting creatures God designed to inhabit the terrain.
- Exploring Creation with Human Anatomy and Physiology
From head to toe, your student will encounter fascinating facts, engaging activities, intriguing experiments, and loads of fun as he or she learns about the human body and how to keep it working according to God's design.
- Exploring Creation with Chemistry and Physics
Students learn about the basic building blocks of creation, atoms and molecules, and then journey through simple chemicals, the laws of motion, and energy in its many forms, before discovering concepts of electricity and magnetism.

You can view all of the titles in the Young Explorer Series at [Apologia.com](https://www.apologia.com).

Q. What are the Notebooking Journals?

A. The Notebooking Journals and Junior Notebooking Journals were specifically created to enable your student to personalize and capture what he or she has learned from the textbook in a creative, fun, and artful keepsake. The content for each Journal aligns with the corresponding textbook. The Notebooking Journal and Junior Notebooking Journal coordinate quite well with each other if you are teaching students at different elementary levels. Every Apologia Notebooking Journal includes:

- Lesson Plans to help schedule the reading and activities through the school year
- Fun graphics and imaginative designs to inspire your child's thoughts and creativity
- Narrative review questions for older students ready to move from oral to written responses (Notebooking Journals)
- Coloring pages to spark conversation and discussion (Junior Notebooking Journals)
- Scripture copy work to help kids develop their handwriting while writing the Word of God on their hearts
- Full-color, lapbook-style miniature books that highlight key concepts from the text
- Field trip sheets to help students record their observations
- Additional projects, experiments, and reading suggestions that encourage kids to dig deeper
- Spiral binding that makes each journal remarkably easy to use.

Teachers and parents choosing to use the Notebooking Journals and Junior Notebooking Journals in their classrooms and homes will find that there is no need to keep a separate notebook for experiments and activities listed in the text; all necessary pages are included!

Q. What's the difference between the Notebooking Journal and Junior Notebooking Journal?

A. Junior Notebooking Journals are designed for younger students who are still developing basic writing skills, typically kindergarten through third grade. The Junior Notebooking Journals include two coloring pages per unit, fewer crossword puzzles, and primary-ruled lines for copy work.

Q. Can I use the Notebooking Journal and Junior Notebooking Journal with older and younger children at the same time? Is the content in sync?

A. Yes, the two can be used together. The Junior Notebooking Journal will have the same mini-books and other activities, except some of the pages that require more writing have been replaced with coloring pages. The Junior Notebooking Journal is for a student that is not quite ready to write paragraphs and is still mastering the art of handwriting. The lines are primary lines, the vocabulary work is much more hands-on, the copywork is shorter and the notebooking templates have fewer writing prompts. You can compare the Journals at the [Apologia](#) website.

Q. What support is available for the Young Explorer Series?

A. Apologia instructors and staff members are always available to answer any of your questions via:

- email: mailbag@apologia.com
- Phone: (765) 608-3280
- Additional online resources for all of the Young Explorer titles (also known as “Book Extras” pages) are available at the [Apologia](#) website. Passwords to access the additional materials can be found inside each textbook. These additional sources of content and projects provide students with even more information and videos that take learning to a deeper level.
- Jeannie Fulbright, the author of the Young Explorer Series, directly participates with a [Yahoo Group](#). In this group you can post questions and share ideas with others using titles in the Young Explorer Series.

Q. What grades can use the Young Explorer Series?

A. The titles in this series were written for the elementary school child. The content can be simply understood by a kindergarten student, but it can also be comprehended and enjoyed through the sixth grade. Through this series, students will become true scientists as they observe nature, participate in experiments, and document all that they learn.

Q. In what order should the books be used?

A. Here's the beauty of the Apologia Young Explorer Series: We recommend you begin with the book you and your students believe to be the most interesting right now. Follow your interests. We would recommend getting your child's help in picking out the specific book title and then choosing the notebooking Notebooking.

You can view all of the titles in the Young Explorer Series at [Apologia.com](#).

Q. Are the books used for a year or a semester?

A. The answer to this question is determined individually. Some students prefer to immerse themselves in the topic. In this scenario, teachers can add in field trips and other projects to make the subject a year long pursuit. Other students might prefer to complete the book in less time. Each title in the Young Explorer Series was designed to allow flexibility for your unique situation so that you can do whatever is best for your students. Spending a year studying a specific title will allow maximum retention, while spending a half of a year will allow you to complete more books in this series before you begin upper level science.

Q. What lessons should my student do each day?

A. Apologia deliberately chooses not to include daily lessons in our elementary curriculum texts in order to allow *maximum flexibility for the student working at his or her own pace*. However, if you really want the structure of lessons, you do have several viable options:

- While we do not include daily lessons in our texts, a recommended schedule is provided in the Notebooking Journals. These suggestions are there to help you create the schedule that best works for your student's style of learning.
- DonnaYoung.org is an online resource that you might find helpful, but we must note that Donna Young is not affiliated with Apologia. This website offers free lesson schedules, tips and work sheets.

Q. Do I need to supplement any of the titles in the Young Explorers Series?

A. There is no need for supplementation. The titles are complete. If however you want more information, we would recommend the following items:

- The Notebooking Journals are richly colored and lapbook-style for those who enjoy lapbooking. They coordinate directly with the associated title and offer additional book and video lists.

Q. Are there any co-op manuals available?

A. At this time, there are co-op manuals for Astronomy and Botany. The [Botany manual](#), written by the text's author Jeannie Fulbright is available. An [astronomy manual](#) was written by Sharon Naskrent. It is recommended by Jeannie Fulbright.

Q. Do I need to purchase a lab kit to complete the experiments in the textbooks?

A. No. There is no lab kit required for any experiment. All student activities use common items. There are some companies that sell kits that coordinate with the Apologia Young Explorer Series. These may be helpful to you if you do not have the time to gather the materials.

Q. Are there any audio books available yet?

A. Apologia is working to get each Young Explorer title as an audio book.

Q. What can I do to help a reluctant writer?

A. For a child that is not yet writing well, you can achieve the maximum benefits of retention for these courses by doing three things:

1. The first thing is to make certain they are narrating in great detail. Ask open-ended questions to fuel the narration and prompt their memory. The more they talk about it, the more they will remember the material.
2. In their notebook have them make and label a lot of illustrations. The Junior Notebooking Journals will be very helpful for this.
3. Make certain that every few weeks you look through all their illustrations and have them explain what they are. This will serve as a great review as it transfers the information into their long term memory.

Q. If I want to teach both middle school students and elementary aged students, are the elementary texts challenging enough for older students?

A. Apologia recognizes that it is difficult to transition out of doing everything together, but *older students need to move up to more challenging curriculum*, especially in science. That does not mean that students can't keep on learning together. Experiments and activities are fun at any age! Older students can help explain concepts to the younger students.

Q. Do I have to use an elementary title for a 6th grader? Could I spread General Science out over two years?

A. We hear this question a lot. You are not required to use an elementary title for a sixth grader, and spreading General Science over two years is completely acceptable. You can also cover General Science in one year and move on to Physical Science in the next year. Work at a level and pace that is comfortable for your student.

Q. Do I need to teach Zoology 1, Zoology 2, and Zoology 3 in that specific order? Do I need to teach all three Zoology titles?

A. No. However, if you choose to do Zoology 2 or Zoology 3 before (or instead of) Zoology 1, your child will not get a detailed look into animal classification. That topic is discussed in the first lesson of Zoology 1. In an effort to help parents with this first lesson of Zoology 1, the sample lesson is available for free download from [Apologia](#).

Q. Do you have any suggested field guides that we can use to expand on ideas?

A. There are books for each of the 50 states in the “Birds of _____ Field Guides.” Each title is organized by the color of the bird and it has an actual photo of the bird and information about the bird. These titles are available at [Rainbow Resource](#). [Golden Guides](#) -a small pocket guide (beginner) and a larger guide are also available. The pocket guide has a generic drawing/painting of the type of bird. The Golden Guide Birds of North America has watercolor paintings of the birds. They are organized by environment. [Kaufman’s Field Guide to Birds of North America](#) contains actual photos.

Q. What should I look for when purchasing a telescope?

A. Please try these links:
<http://www.rocketroberts.com/astro/first.htm>
<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/equipment/basics>

Q. In Zoology 2-lesson 4, it says there are 8 sea turtles, but only 7 are described in the writing. What is the other one?

A. Scientists do not agree on the number of sea turtles. Many say there are seven species. Others define eight, with the eighth sea turtle being the BLACK TURTLE (*Chelonia agassizii*). Some consider it a subspecies of the green turtle. It is different than the green turtle in color and it’s much smaller than a green turtle. It’s carapace is a different structure and shape, and it has a different number of prefrontal scales. The black turtle also nests differently than the green turtle. So, is it really a green turtle? Many scientists still think so, and maintain that there are seven species of sea turtles. Others, however, believe the black turtle gives us eight species. This issue actually offers us a great opportunity to discuss how science is not a perfect science, so to speak. Opinions reign even when the facts are known. This also could be an opportunity for the students to do further study on their own and draw their own conclusion about this issue. They could write out and, perhaps, make their opinion known to chelonian scientists, just for fun.