

Outreach Book List - General Science

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Title of book	Suggested by	Blurb	Review
1 A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson	<i>Richard Brown, Reach Out Makerspace Technician</i>	Bill Bryson describes himself as a reluctant traveller: but even when he stays safely in his own study at home, he can't contain his curiosity about the world around him. A Short History of Nearly Everything is his quest to find out everything that has happened from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization - how we got from there, being nothing at all, to here, being us.	<i>Best known for his humorous travel books, this is a slight detour for the author, but one that is filled with the engaging enthusiasm of someone discovering science in all its wonder and peculiarities [plus some luck, bizarre occurrences and tragedy] as if travelling a new continent. This is by no means a heavy tone but you will find yourself educated and entertained. I would repeatedly find myself so engrossed in its pages, many times reading into the small hours of the morning.</i>
2 8000 metres Climbing the World's highest mountains by Alan Hinkes	<i>Manish Patel, Document Delivery Coordinator, Library</i>	In this book, renowned British mountaineer Alan Hinkes relates his experiences of climbing all 14 of the peaks over 8000m: the world's highest mountains. Alongside stunning photography, he describes his expeditions - many as Alpine-style ascents - capturing the beauty, harshness and danger of these mountains.	<i>The book is primarily about adventurer mountaineering, climbing the world's highest mountains. The themes covered within it include the natural environment, Climates, Geology and Geography. Human physiology, endurance; survival in extreme conditions. The author, previously working as a teacher, became an international mountain guide and accomplished reaching the highest summits. The book adds inspiration to the subjects and a spirit of adventure others might want to pursue.</i>
3 The Science Book, Big Ideas Simply Explained by Rob Colson (Editor), Camilla Hallinan (Editor), David John (Editor), Adam Hart-Davis	<i>Zhendan Shang, Postgraduate Earth Science & Engineering</i>	Discover 80 trail-blazing scientific ideas, which underpin our modern world, giving us everything from antibiotics to gene therapy, electricity to space rockets and batteries to smart phones. What is string theory or black holes? And who discovered gravity and radiation? The Science Book presents the fascinating story behind these and other of the world's most important concepts in maths, chemistry, physics and biology in plain English, with easy to grasp "mind maps" and eye-catching artworks.	<i>I would like to recommend this book because I thought that it was a really good read. The book showcased the ingenuity of humanity in exploring and understanding the wonders of the world around them, the various methods that the great minds of the past used to investigate the world, and the thinking behind various facts that we may take for granted today. I also like that it covers a wide range of topics in science, from biology, physics, chemistry to geology, gives an outline of the history of how we reached our current understanding of the world, and touches on the latest advances in the scientific domain where active research is currently being done. I think its greatest selling point is that it instils a scientific method of how to think critically about nature with lots of quirky drawings and diagrams. It's a really good starting point for anyone generally curious about the natural world and how our current knowledge of the world came to be.</i>