

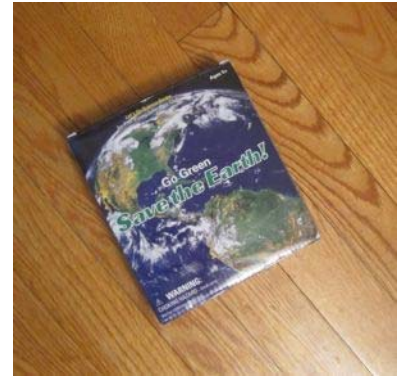
Young Scientists Club Go Green Save the Earth! Mini-kit review

The Young Scientists Club Go Green Save the Earth! mini-kit uses simple hands-on experiments to teach children ages 5 and up about pollution and ways people and nature can recycle resources.

About Go Green Save the Earth! mini-kit

Like a tiny life science class in a box, the Go Green Save the Earth! mini-kit provides kids with the materials they need to learn how people test the Earth for pollution and recycle resources.

As children read the included Manual, they will find out about such subjects as how and why pollution changes water and other liquids, how scientists can test for water pollution, why it is important to reduce the use of some materials, how and why it is important to recycle other materials, and how nature itself can recycle waste.



From trying out the experiments in this educational science kit, children will learn how to perform a pH test, to test the pH of different types of water, to use a chemical to break Styrofoam down, to recycle old newspaper into new paper, and to find out how soil can break down natural materials.

Young Scientists Club Go Green Save the Earth! mini-kit review

The experiments packed in this science mini-kit are suitable for kids ages 5 and up, but younger children will need an adult's help to conduct some of them, from running the blender in the recycling paper experiment to handling acetone in the breaking down Styrofoam experiment.

Working their way through the Manual and its experiments will give young children practical experience with the hows and whys behind recycling and conserving materials. Many schoolchildren are taught to automatically throw glass, plastic, and paper into recycling bins without taking the time to help them understand the reasons why it is important to do these things. This science mini-kit can help them appreciate the 3Rs (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle) and take them much more seriously.

Along with an increased interest in recycling, children may also gain an understanding of the process of how to conduct an experiment and then use what they have learned to try further explorations of their own. Kids might want to play around with recycling other types of paper than just newspaper or with testing the acidity of other liquids than the ones tested in the Manual experiments. (Chicago parents can visit [American Science & Surplus](#) to stock up on new materials like litmus paper once the supplies included in the kit have been used up.)

We were sent our Go Green Save the Earth! mini-kit for review, but it generally retails for around \$9.99. Chicago parents can check the [online store finder](#) at the Young Scientists Club's Online Store to find a retailer near home.



Children ready for a more intensive exploration of recycling issues may like to try [The Magic School Bus Going Green science kit](#). Parents interested in other educational toys from the Let's Go Science Series by The Young Scientists Club can read about the [Explore Space mini-kit](#).

Star Pilot Young Scientists space kit review

Children can use the Star Pilot Young Scientists space kit to learn how to view constellations in the night-time sky.

Young astronomers ages 10 and up can use the Star Pilot Young Scientists space kit to learn how to scan the real night-time sky for stars and constellations. Supplemental materials teach kids about constellations, how to view nighttime objects, and celestial legends, while the patented, battery-operated Star Pilot device helps them find and observe the brightest stars and star pictures.



About Star Pilot space kit

The materials packed in this Young Scientists space kit prepare children step by step to improve their chances of actually locating constellations once they are standing under a real night sky.

The Manual introduces kids to the science of astronomy (including how the heavens are organized, why people see different stars at different times of the year, and some facts about stars and the planets of the Solar System), explains how to use the Star Pilot device (including how to construct a night-vision flashlight that uses red light so as not to disrupt the viewer's eyes), and narrates several illustrated celestial legends from cultures around the world.

To use the Star Pilot, kids must first train their eyes by looking through it with one eye and viewing one of the two practice cards (one for the Northern Hemisphere and one for the Southern Hemisphere) with the other. By rotating the spherical star ball that pops into the Star Pilot, children can eventually see two images of the same constellation. Now they have mastered the skill of using the Star Pilot to orient themselves in the night sky and can go outside, turn the star ball to a familiar orientation point (like Ursa Minor), and find that same orientation point in the sky above to use as a reference point for future star gazing.

This space kit also comes with a SLOOH Telescope Card and Starter Activity Book that allows kids to access Slooh telescopes on three continents over the Internet and schedule times on these professional telescopes to view sky objects as part of missions outlined in the activity book.

Star Pilot space kit review

This educational astronomy kit provides a thorough introduction to the activity of observing objects in the night sky. It is well-rounded, too, teaching kids not just the science of how to spot constellations and what stars are but some of the history and myths behind these star pictures.

The Star Pilot space kit offers good return on the initial investment to buy it, as children can use the Star Pilot night after night. The Slooh Telescope Card comes with enough credits to allow kids to complete several celestial missions outlined in the activity book, and families can pay to add credits for additional missions. Once a child has gone through all the materials in this science kit, parents will know whether or not to invest in a good telescope to further his or her star studies.



We were sent our Star Pilot Young Scientists space kit for review, but it generally retails for around \$30 to \$35. Chicago parents can check the [online store finder](#) at the Young Scientists Club's Online Store to find a retailer near home.

Budding astronomers younger than the age of 10 may do better with [The Young Scientists Club Explore Space mini-kit](#) (which is suitable for kids ages 5 and up). Parents interested in other kinds of science kits can read about the [Go Green! Save the Earth! mini-kit](#), [The Magic School Bus Going Green science kit](#), and [The Magic School Bus Diving Into Slime, Gel, and Goop science kit](#).

The Magic School Bus Going Green Young Scientists Club science kit review

Children ages 5 and up can learn about recycling by doing hands-on experiments with The Magic School Bus Going Green

The Magic School Bus Going Green Young Scientists Club science kit uses the characters Ms. Frizzle the teacher and her students from the popular Magic School Bus book series by Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen as guides to a series of experiments designed to teach kids about recycling.

By using the supplies provided with the kit and materials gathered from home, children can conduct experiments that build upon one another, educating kids about how different kinds of materials change, decompose, and can be recycled and why it is important to reduce, reuse, and recycle the world's resources.



About Magic School Bus Going Green

Each page in the Manual that comes with this science kit presents a different experiment, listing the question to be answered by this activity and the materials needed to conduct the experiment. The Magic School Bus character hosting the experiment explains the science content needed to understand the experiment. The last two pages of the manual provide adults with the "answers" to each procedure, along with an explanation of what is going on in each case that will help adults help children conduct each experiment correctly.

The twelve experiments are ordered so that the things children learn in one experiment help them understand what is happening in the next one, building their knowledge and understanding of recycling over time. In performing these experiments, kids will learn about the water cycle, evaporation, decomposition, how to recycle paper, which plastics can be recycled, and how to recycle plastic.

Magic School Bus Going Green science kit review

The experiments in this science kit are suitable for kids ages 5 and up, but an adult should supervise and assist each one. The way the experiments build upon one another is well planned and will help children understand the material as they learn it bit by bit. The use of familiar characters from the Magic School Bus series will engage children's attention and make learning fun.

We were sent our Magic School Bus Going Green science kit for review, but it generally retails for around \$20. Chicago parents can check the [online store finder](#) at the Young Scientists Club's Online Store to find a retailer near home.

For a simpler and less expensive science kit that covers similar material about recycling, check out the [Young Scientists Club Go Green Save the Earth! mini-kit](#).



Parents interested in other kinds of science kits can read about the [Star Pilot Young Scientists space kit](#) and the [The Young Scientists Club Explore Space mini-kit](#).

The Magic School Bus Diving Into Slime, Gel, and Goop Young Scientists Club science kit review

The Magic School Bus Diving Into Slime, Gel, and Goop science kit teaches children about polymers.

The Magic School Bus Diving Into Slime, Gel, and Goop Young Scientists Club science kit uses exciting hands-on experiments with often reusable materials to teach children about polymers. To engage children's attention, the instruction manual and experiments are hosted by popular characters Ms. Frizzle the teacher and her students from the Magic School Bus series of books by Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen. By using the chemicals and other supplies included with this children's science kit to perform age-appropriate experiments (with adult supervision), kids will learn not just about chemistry, but also about the scientific method and how to make and test a hypothesis.



About Diving Into Slime, Gel, and Goop

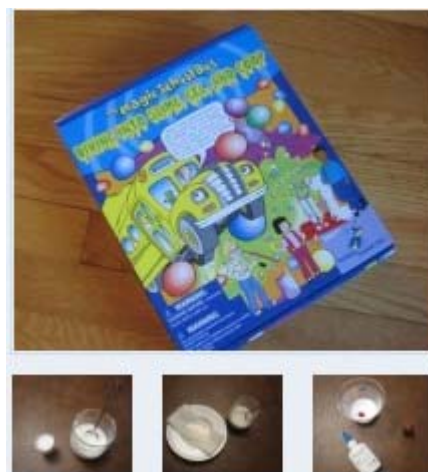
Each page in the manual explains how to do a separate experiment, and when children perform the experiments in order, they go on a Magic School Bus adventure in which the information learned in one activity is crucial for understanding the next one. In each experiment, cartoon characters tell children background information and facts about the science used in the experiment, and children are presented with a question from which they are to form a hypothesis, a list of materials needed, a description of the methods they should use to perform the experiment, and places to record results and/or conclusions. The last two pages of the manual provide adults with "answers" for the experiments to help them guide children's explorations to successful conclusions.

The twelve experiments are ordered so that kids can master simpler concepts before tackling more complex ones. For example, the first experiment uses stickers of children linked together to help kids visualize what a polymer looks like before starting the second experiment – using the polymer casein from milk to make sticky "glue." Sometimes substances created in one experiment are used in the next, as when children combine glue and borax to make slime and then add more borax to transform the slime into a bouncy ball. In performing these experiments, children will do everything from testing the properties of polymers used in everyday items and making, freezing, and melting Insta-Snow super-absorbent polymers to playing with water-absorbent polymers shaped like little crystals and colorful marbles.

Magic School Bus Diving Into Slime, Gel, and Goop Young Scientists Club science kit review

This science kit is suitable for kids ages 5 and up (with adult supervision) and children both young and old will love conducting each and every one of these experiments. From molding slime into a bouncy toy to watching the jiggly marbles swell and shrink, kids will be fascinated by the amazing properties of the polymers provided with the materials in this kit. The use of Magic School Bus characters will also capture kids' interest so that they hardly notice how much they are learning as they play with this educational toy.

Parents will like the fact that many of the materials are reusable (for example, the Insta-Snow, gel crystals, and jiggly marbles can all be soaked with water and left to dry out over and over again), so that children will get many hours of experimental play out of the kit. Some materials must be supplied from home (like the cornstarch used to create Oobleck) and some will run out after trying an experiment once or twice (the glue, the borax), but parents can always easily purchase more of these materials if kids beg to try an experiment again.



We were sent our Magic School Bus Diving Into Slime, Gel, and Goop science kit for review, but it generally retails for around \$20. Chicago parents can check the [online store finder](#) at the Young Scientists Club's Online Store to find a retailer near home.

Young Scientists Club Explore Space mini-kit review

Chicago parents can use *The Young Scientists Club Explore Space mini-kit* to introduce children to beginning astronomy concepts and gauge their interest in the subject before investing in more expensive astronomy toys and books

The Young Scientists Club Explore Space mini-kit is an affordable educational toy that uses hands-on experiments to introduce children ages 5 and up to basic astronomy topics such as stars, planets, constellations, the phases of the moon, and solar eclipses.

About Explore Space mini-kit

An astronomy class boiled down in miniature, the Young Scientists Club Explore Space mini-kit comes with the materials needed to try several simple experiments and a Manual full of information about space and the instructions for the experiments.



Children can move through the Manual at their own pace, reading about planets, stars, and constellations before viewing star pictures themselves through the star viewer or building a small recreation of the phases of the Moon. Even after children have completed all of the experiments, the Manual can continue to serve as a handy reference resource, containing as it does facts about the planets in our Solar System, a chart of the phases of the Moon, a description of how a solar eclipse is formed, and so on.

Young Scientists Club Explore Space mini-kit review

Kids will enjoy the fact that the experiments in this science kit do not come preassembled. It is fun putting the models of Earth and the Moon together or folding the constellation viewer in place. Parents, meanwhile, will appreciate the fact that even once an experiment is "done," kids can continue to explore the topic, whether testing to see what happens when the "Sun" in the solar eclipse and phases of the moon experiment is placed in other positions or just punching out and viewing new constellations through their constellation viewer.

If parents want to encourage a love of science in their kids without spending a lot of money on an enrichment class or a full-blown science kit, this sort of mini-kit is a perfect first step. If, after completing the activities in this mini-kit, a child is interested in learning more about astronomy, then parents can invest in more expensive science toys (like a telescope or a toy for projecting stars on the ceiling like a planetarium), but trying this kit out first saves parents any further investment of time and money if a child decides in the end that he or she is more interested in learning about chemistry or the life sciences instead.

This science mini-kit does contain several small pieces and thus is not suitable for children under 3 to play with unsupervised. Our 5-year-old tester was able (with an adult explaining the directions) to conduct all of the experiments. Children whose knowledge of astronomy goes beyond that covered by this kit may want to try the [Star Pilot Young Scientists space kit](#), which is suitable for kids ages 10 and up.

We were sent our Explore Space mini-kit for review, but it generally retails for around \$9.99. Chicago parents can check the [online store finder](#) at the Young Scientists Club's Online Store to find a retailer near home.



Parents interested in other educational toys from the Let's Go Science Series by The Young Scientists Club can read about the [Go Green Save the Earth! mini-kit](#). Families interested in other science kits for kids may like [The Magic School Bus Going Green kit](#) and [The Magic School Bus Diving Into Slime, Gel, and Goop kit](#).