

## Children's Literature Reviews

Item 63 of 130

### Cool dry ice devices : fun science projects with dry ice

*James Hopwood.*

*Cataloging in Publication*

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Edina, Minn. : ABDO Pub. Company, c2008.

p. cm.

#### Annotations:

Includes index.

Science is cool -- Cool science projects -- Cool science journal -- Introduction -- Materials list -- Hoppin' poppers -- Breezy bubbles -- Tasty gassy liquids -- Fast frozen confections -- Fantastic fog fountain -- The sound lens -- Conclusion -- Glossary.

#### Horn Book Guide:

Fall 2008 Nonfiction-Science Rating 5, Marginal, seriously flawed, but with some redeeming quality.

#### Reading Measurement Programs:

Accelerated Reader

Interest Level Middle Grade

Book Level 5.3

Accelerated Reader Points 1

#### Reviews:

##### **Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)**

This book is part of the "Checkerboard How-To Library Cool Science" series that includes experiments relating to gravity, odor, senses, spy activities, and distance activities. Step-by-step instruction and photos guide kids through various science activities. Included are materials lists, tools, and prefatory notes to adults that while the projects are designed to let children work independently, adult supervision is a must. The trim size (8"x8") is congruent with the publisher's many other series, and the text is about third grade reading level. Kids used in photos range from about ten to fourteen. "The Scientific Method" introduces the process of observation, hypothesis, testing, and conclusions. Variations on each project are included in each chapter. Readers are encouraged to keep a notebook in which to predict outcomes and record actual events. A page of safety tips precedes the actual experiments, which includes a page of dry ice safety tips. Materials for the experiments are pictured and labeled. Each experiment has approximate time to complete, materials list, questions in "Think Like A Scientist" list, clearly delineated steps to completion, and an explanation of the science at work. Experiments are titled: "Hoppin' Poppers" (exploding film canisters with dry ice--definitely a bad idea), "Breezy Bubbles" (which is heavier, air or CO2?), "Tasty Gassy Liquids" (making root beer), "Fast Frozen Confections" (making ice cream), "Fantastic Fog Fountain" (simple fog machine), and "Sublime Sound Lens" (comparing sound through a balloon). A "Glossary" and an "Index" are at the end. Aside from the "mad scientist" photo on the first page and final page, the text seems to want to empower kids to play with science. Dry ice, of course, is a bit dangerous, no matter how you look at it, and nowhere in the book are there cautionary icons (like on the dry ice flyer you will find at most dry-ice machines in the supermarket) warning kids not to touch or eat the stuff, and most definitely (at least on the flyer I found) not to put it in a closed airtight container. While the materials list in each experiment includes "gloves," the photos accompanying the project show ungloved hands. In the "Fast Frozen Confections" chapter,

readers are told to mix the ice cream goop directly with the dry ice. Imagine the results if a piece of dry ice were swallowed! It could make the six o'clock news! 2008, Abdo Publishing, \$24.21. Ages 8 to 14.

**Sharon F. Williams (Library Media Connection, April/May 2008)**

Here is a series that is "just in time;" it's just in time for the nationwide push to improve science knowledge and achievement in the elementary school, and just in time for the push to get more elementary level participation in science fairs. The series format includes: "Science is Cool," "The Scientific Method," "Write it Down," and "Safe Science," followed by a historical perspective into the branch of science of the particular text and a photographically enhanced listing of the materials required to do all the experiments. Detailed and illustrated instructions for the five cool experiments follow. Key vocabulary words are set in bold-face type. Due to the changing and evolving nature of the Internet, the publisher directs the reader to its Book Links Web page where the reader has access to links that are routinely monitored and updated to provide the most current information possible. These books are definite musts for any elementary school library to support and enhance the basic science curriculum and give budding scientists a reason to bloom. Glossary. Web sites. Index.[Editor's Note: Other titles in the series are *Cool Gravity Activities*, *Cool Odor Decoders*, *Cool Sensory Suspense*, *Cool Spy Supplies*.] Recommended. 2008, ABDO Publishing Company, 32pp. ea., \$24.21 ea. lb.. Ages 9 to 12.

**Horn Book (The Horn Book Guide, Fall 2008)**

After a shared introduction about the scientific method and safety, each exclamation-point-heavy text tries too hard to make science super-fun. Five to seven activities explore physical and life science concepts through such topics as spying and the senses. Though the science is sound, the activities, particularly those requiring dry ice, are more advanced than the books' appearance would indicate. Glos., ind. (Checkerboard How-To Library: Cool Science series). Category: Nonfiction-Science. 2008, ABDO, 32pp, \$24.21 (lb). Ages 9 to 12. Rating: 5: Marginal, seriously flawed, but with some redeeming quality.

**Series:**

[Cool science](#)

**Subjects:**

[Dry ice--Experiments Juvenile literature.](#)

[Science projects Juvenile literature.](#)

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