## COLLINS KEY STAGE 3 SCIENCE, SECOND EDITION

## Contact: connect.collins.co.uk Reviewed by: John Dabell

You may already be familiar with the excellent science resources offered by Collins; well get ready to be impressed all over again, because now its KS3 science materials have been fully revised and updated to match the 2014 curriculum by expert authors – and there is much about which you can get excited.

The series has been impressively built and is made up of pupil books, teacher packs, an online platform and assessment support along with homework and skills resources. It would be hard to imagine anyone turning their nose up at this flexible collection of high-quality materials, as it should provide you with everything you need to bring science to life and ensure progression for all.

The tour de force of the Collins Key Stage 3 Science series is the online access to all the resources via Collins Connect, its clean-cut, professional and resource-busting online platform. If you want added value, then here's where you will find it. With personalised dashboards for teachers and pupils, books are brought to life and there are interactive activities, quizzes and Naked Scientist animation videos galore. You can set work and monitor pupil progress at the drop of a hat and the assessment opportunities available are second to none. Pupils can access materials and submit homework (which for quick tests can be automarked to save you time), as well as provide individual feedback on the difficulty of the tasks set. This highly accessible platform adds to your repertoire and makes teaching more engaging, fun, and motivating for learners.

## **Page turners**

With the student books, what you get is plenty of exciting visuals mixed with accurate and reliable content that is bound to engage learners. The first page of each new chapter has links to ideas pupils have met before and there is a summary of what they can expect to learn as they go. The pages have been well thought out with clear learning objectives and engaging introductory text that puts the science into perspective. The information is all there and interspersed with plenty of questions to test knowledge and understanding, lots of challenge, 'Did you know..?' snippets and key vocabulary. Half-way through a chapter pupils get the chance to find out more about a real-life application, with tasks getting a bit more difficult as they go through. They can monitor their progress using a checklist and there are end of chapter questions, so they can chart what they have learnt.

The teacher guides are very competent and practical support manuals with oven-ready editable lesson plans that can easily be adapted. They provide you with the back-up you need to put the science into action and give you an enormous amount of help for planning and delivering lessons. I especially like the section devoted to planning the learning process as it contains some sound tips and great ideas for getting the best out of a lesson. There are two biology, two chemistry and two physics chapters in each year, which means that the science can be delivered as one subject or if you want as subject specialisms. A cracking plus of this resource is that a scheme of work shows both 3-year and 2-year routes through the course to aid planning. I like the lesson plans because they take learning in stages divided into sections that engage, challenge and develop, explain, consolidate, apply and extend. All the answers to the student books are included and every lesson has the all-important differentiated worksheets to support written work.



## **OVERDICT: SOUND SCIENCE**

Collins Key Stage 3 Science is a dynamic, creative and cost-effective resource with plenty of clout and style; perfect for supporting your delivery of high quality lessons that count. Integrate Collins Connect with your MIS system or use as a standalone resource. You'll struggle to find better.