

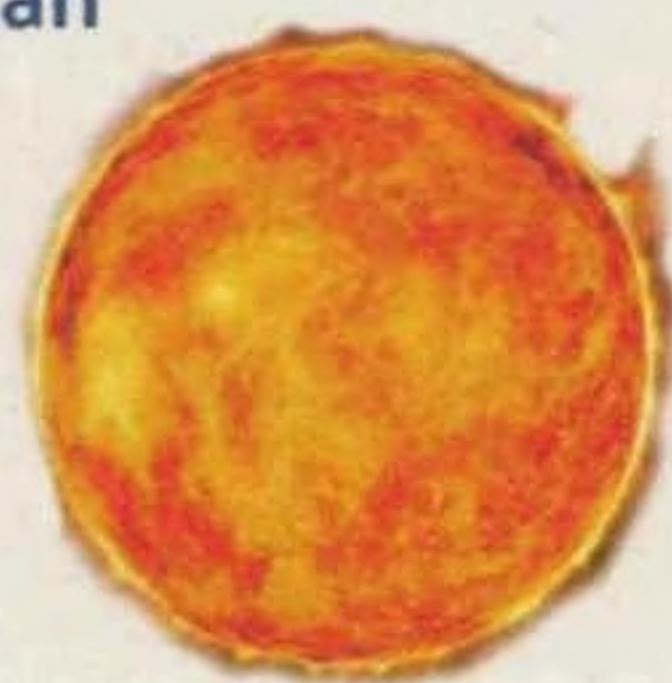
CONTENTS

Introduction by Christopher Lloyd 1

CHAPTER 1 UNIVERSE

by Jonathan O'Callaghan

2



The Big Bang 4 • Galaxies 6 • The Milky Way 8 • Stars 10 • Nebulae 12 • Constellations 14 • Watching Space from Space 16 • Black Holes 18 • Exoplanets 20 • Our Solar System 22 • The Sun 24 • Planetary Exploration 26 • Rocky Planets 28 • Gas Giants 30 • Moons 32 • Asteroids 34 • Kuiper Belt 36 • Rockets 38 • Artificial Satellites 40 • Crewed Spacecraft 42 • Space Probes 44 • End of the Universe 46 • Ask the Experts! 48 • The Quiz 49

CHAPTER 2 EARTH

by John Farndon

50



Earth is Born 52 • Earth in Space 54 • Measuring Earth 56 • Inside Earth 58 • The Earth 60 • Plate Tectonics 62 • Volcanoes 64 • Earthquakes & Tsunamis 66 • Mountains 68 • Rocks & Minerals 70 • Giant Crystals 72 • Earth's Riches 74 • Fossils 76 • Finding Dinosaurs 78 • Fossil Fuels 80 • Water World 82 • Earth's Ice 84 • The Atmosphere 86 • Weather 88 • Mega Storms 90 • Climate 92 • Natural Climate Change 94 • Ask the Experts! 96 • The Quiz 97

CHAPTER 3 MATTER

by John Farndon

98



The Atom 100 • Elements 102 • Radioactivity 104 • Compounds 106 • Combustion 108 • Solids, Liquids & Gases 110 • Plasma 112 • Metals 114 • Non-metals 116 • Plastics 118 • Chemistry of Life 120 • Energy 122 • Sound 124 • Electricity 126 • Light 128 • Speed Demons 130 • Forces 132 • Gravity 134 • Pressure 136 • Lighter than Air 138 • Stretching & Squashing 140 • Simple Machines 142 • Ask the Experts! 144 • The Quiz 145

CHAPTER 4 LIFE

by Michael Bright

146



The Origin of Life 148 • Evolution in Action 150 • Classifying Life 152 • The Micro World 154 • Plants & Fungi 156 • Animals 158 • Bugs 160 • Ecology 162 • The Rainforest 164 • The Taiga & Temperate Forests 166 • Grasslands 168 • Mount Everest 170 • Deserts 172 • Life in Freshwater 174 • The Seashore 176 • Coral Reef Crisis 178 • The Open Ocean 180 • The Deep Sea 182 • Ends of the Earth 184 • Shrinking Ice 186 • Urban Wildlife 188 • Harnessing Nature 190 • Ask the Experts! 192 • The Quiz 193

CHAPTER 5 HUMANS

by Cynthia O' Brien

194



Becoming Human 196 • Human Body 198 • DNA & Genetics 200 • The Brain 202 • Emotions 204 • The Senses 206 • Food & Cooking 208 • Dress & Decoration 210 • Religious Belief 212 • Conflict & War 214 • Language & Storytelling 216 • Reading & Writing 218 • Creating Art 220 • Performing Arts 222 • Calendars 224 • Money 226 • Crime & Law 228 • Education 230 • Work 232 • Games & Sport 234 • Festivals 236 • Death Rituals 238 • Ask the Experts! 240 • The Quiz 241

CHAPTER 6 ANCIENT & MEDIIEVAL TIMES

by Dr Jacob Field

242



The First Australians 244 • The Fertile Crescent 246 • Ancient Mesopotamia 248 • Stonehenge 250 • The First Chinese Dynasties 252 • Ancient Egypt 254 • Ancient Gods 256 • Andean Civilizations 258 • Settling the Pacific 260 • The Minoans, Mycenaeans & Phoenicians 262 • The Olmecs & the Maya 264 • The Persian Empire 266 • Ancient Greece 268 • Alexander the Great 270 • The Mauryan Empire 272 • The Terracotta Army 274 • Ancient Rome 276 • The Byzantine World 278 • Ancient African Kingdoms 280 • Tang China 282 • The Golden Age of Islam 284 • Medieval Europe 286 • Ask the Experts! 288 • The Quiz 289

CHAPTER 7 MODERN TIMES

by Abigail Mitchell

290

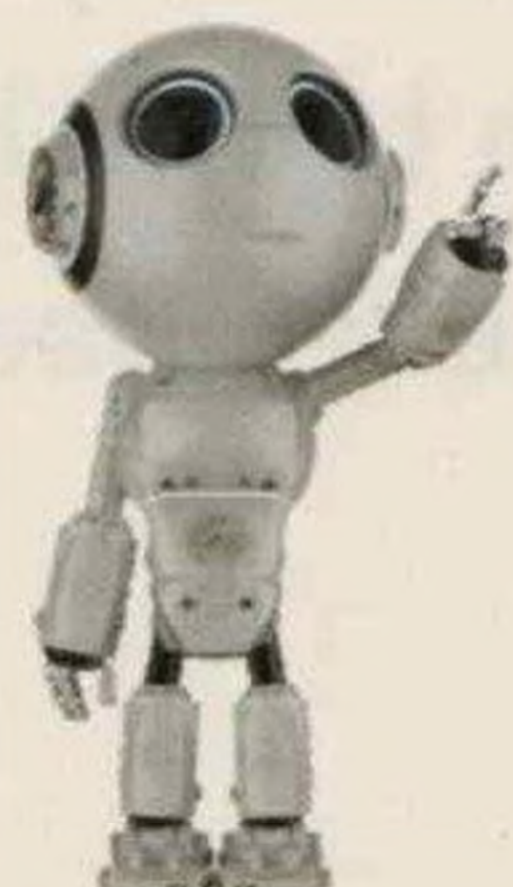


African Empires 292 • The Renaissance 294 • Aztecs & Incas 296 • Age of Exploration 298 • The Mughal Empire 300 • Japan's Great Peace 302 • New Empires 304 • British & French Colonies in North America 306 • Slavery in the Americas 308 • Age of Revolutions 310 • Medical Milestones 312 • The Industrial Revolution 314 • World War I 316 • Votes for Women 318 • The Rise of Communism 320 • Boom & Bust 322 • World War II 324 • The Cold War 326 • Decolonization 328 • Civil Rights 330 • New Tensions, New Hopes 332 • World Political Map 334 • Ask the Experts! 336 • The Quiz 337

CHAPTER 8 TODAY & TOMORROW

by Jonathan O'Callaghan

338



One World 340 • Anything, Anywhere 342 • Inequality 344 • Feeding the World 346 • Powering the Planet 348 • Modern Warfare 350 • The Mega Rich 352 • Cities 354 • The Internet 356 • The Media 358 • Artificial Materials 360 • Med Tech 362 • Smart Tech & AI 364 • Environmental Challenges 366 • Extinction Event 368 • Endangered 370 • The Effects of Climate Change 372 • Stopping Climate Change 374 • Nuclear Power 376 • Renewable Energy 378 • Cities of Tomorrow 380 • Future Humans 382 • Ask the Experts! 384 • The Quiz 385

Source Notes 386 • Glossary 394 • Index 402 • Picture Credits 414