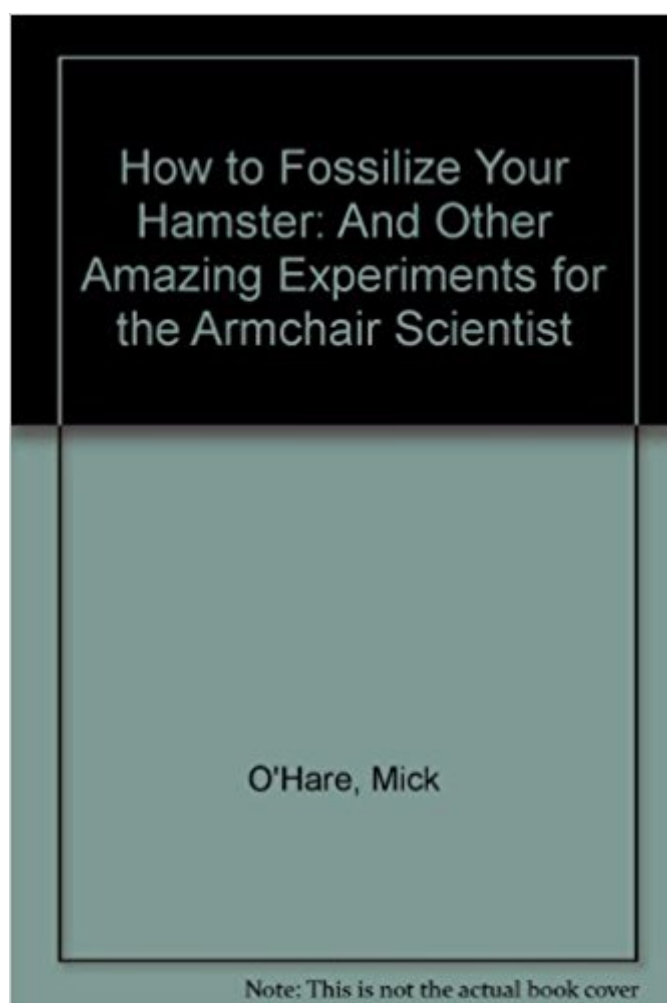


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How To Fossilize Your Hamster: And Other Amazing Experiments For The Armchair Scientist



Synopsis

Outrageously entertaining and educational experiments from the team behind the phenomenal international bestseller *Does Anything Eat Wasps?* How can you measure the speed of light with a bar of chocolate and a microwave oven? To keep a banana from decaying, are you better off rubbing it with lemon juice or refrigerating it? How can you figure out how much your head weighs? Mick O'Hare, who created the New Scientist's popular science sensations *Does Anything Eat Wasps?* and *Why Don't Penguins' Feet Freeze?*, has the answers. In this fascinating and irresistible new book, O'Hare and the New Scientist team guide you through one hundred intriguing experiments that show essential scientific principles (and human curiosity) in action. Explaining everything from the unusual chemical reaction between Mentos and cola that provokes a geyser to the geological conditions necessary to preserve a family pet for eternity, *How to Fossilize Your Hamster* is fun, hands-on science that everyone will want to try at home. "...provides such entertaining tidbits and empirical knowledge, alongside hours of activities, in this volume of science experiments for adults." - Publishers Weekly --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

If you've ever wondered why a dried spaghetti noodle, when bent, always breaks into three or more pieces, rest assured that none less than Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman devoted hours to the same puzzle. O'Hare, a member of the New Scientist editorial team that produced *Why Don't Penguins' Feet Freeze?*, provides such entertaining tidbits and empirical knowledge,

alongside hours of activities, in this volume of science experiments for adults. Perfect for home scientists, it requires only basic household supplies (cornstarch, vinegar and milk are frequent components) and approximate measurements to carry out such tasks as measuring the speed of light (using a microwave and a chocolate bar), extracting DNA at home (with dish soap and alcohol), and accounting for toothpaste's effect on orange juice. Beside fun, each provides lessons in fundamental scientific principles, logic and problem solving. O'Hare even makes complex fluid dynamics such as thixotropy easy to understand-it's what makes ketchup "gloopy," but able to change from "gelatinous" to "runny" through "the input of energy, typically by shaking." From food science to party tricks (complete with booze), O'Hare offers entertainment and edification for anyone who enjoyed (or missed out on) a childhood chemistry set. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Mick O'Hare is the production editor of New Scientist and the editor of the international bestsellers Does Anything Eat Wasps? and Why Don't Penguins' Feet Freeze? He lives in London. New Scientist is the bestselling and fastest growing science magazine in the world. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Most of the experiments are not worth it. I believe there's 5% of the book that is worth reading. I do not recommend.

No fluff or unnecessary fanfare here. How to Fossilize Your Hamster by Mick O'Hare takes you straight to the experiments—here's what you need, here's what to do and here's what to expect. The whole book is themed around a household so each experiment (e.g. Green Eggs and Cabbage) is meant for a specific location (e.g. The Kitchen). It might be a while before I get around to trying ALL of them, but I'm already enjoying the few experiments I have done.

About: New Scientist writer O'Hare provides instructions explains a multitude of science experiments that can easily be done at home. Pros: Very interesting, varied topics and experiments. Written in easy-to-understand language. My favorite topics included the best ways to get ketchup out of a bottle, how to test if talking on a cell phone affects your reaction time (it does), why hot water freezes faster than cold water, why your vision is blurry underwater, how to extract iron from cereal and DNA from yourself. Apparently, Alka-Seltzer can be used for several cool

experiments.Cons: No sources cited. A further reading section would've been nice

I loved this book so much I need to buy one to keep for generations. I hope I can have fun doing some of these experiments with my children and someday my grandchildren. Easily understood scientific concepts in a visual display. Excellent!

The abstract about the book sounded good and I bought it. However, when I read it, it quickly became apparent that most of the science projects in the book were related to drinking. This is not for kids. It might be fun for a partying college student but, unless you're into drinking experiments, forget it. I sent this book back after examination. Skip it if you want information useful for a science fair project.

It was a very mean thing to title the book, "How to Fossilize your Hamster" and then tell us to bury the dead hamster and wait eons. . . My children wanted this book because of the title and that's the first page we turned to. [we do have a pet cemetery' in our back yard that they were ready to excavate] I have seen experiments with bones before, so it did not seem way out there. This was a total disappointment. While its a cute gimmick, a 'non-experiment' should not be the title for a book of experiments. I thumbed through the book and felt it had the same unthinking attitude through out. There are so many better experiment books out. . .deborah

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