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James Trefil

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Story of Innovation: How Yesterday's Discoveries Lead to Tomorrow's Breakthroughs:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An interesting book, but it's hard to say what kind of book By Etiam si omnes, ego non This is a big, heavy, colorful book that has a lot of pictures to go with some interesting textual tidbits. Billed as "The Story of Innovation", the book broadly surveys a lot of different areas where scientific discoveries have advanced our understanding of the world around us. The book is nicely put together, and it is worthy of the National Geographic imprimatur. This book draws a lot, sometimes verbatim, on the science survey book The Sciences: An Integrated Approach that James Trefil co-wrote for college students who are not science majors. Unlike that book, though, this book is heavy on pictures and light on text. It's no textbook. Indeed, it's hard to say what this book is. Though the book is supposed to be the story of innovation, it seems more like an encyclopedia of basic

scientific discoveries instead. But each article is too short for an encyclopedia, and there are too many pictures. It's more a coffee-table book than anything. So as a non-college-student adult with a keen interest in how technological innovation happens, I was disappointed to find that this book says nothing about that. Not that there's anything wrong with that kind of book, but I was expecting something different. The "rah rah" foreword by science blogger Destin Sandlin also seemed a tad over the top. I also had a few quibbles with the text, particularly its discussion of the origin of life and evolution. Those complex subjects are still not well understood but they are presented as though they were. But even as an adult with a scientific bent I did learn a fair amount from the book, and I thought James Trefil did a good job writing about rather diverse topics in a simple way that still conveyed a lot of deep understanding. Well done.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Exploring the History and the Future of Invention By Tamara Thorne This coffee table book from National Geographic is a terrific overview of the history and future of science and technology. It's sectioned into physical science, life science, medicine, planetary science/astronomy, and technology. The paper is luxurious to the touch and the photos and drawings are terrific. These pages are full of eye candy. Each section includes an overview of the particular innovation covered and then developments are listed chronologically. There are excellent descriptions of how basic ideas are developed into bigger and better things; it presents a fascinating journey from origin to future possibilities for each innovation. The author does imply certain things that aren't absolute truths yet, but overall it's a pretty fantastic book. It's the kind of book to leave out for kids to consult. They'll learn things without even knowing it. The information is given in easy-to-swallow chunks but by no means are those chunks light and simple - depending on the subject, I found some concepts strained my brain, but in a good way. As a writer, I'm always looking for books like this - books that will give me basic information on various subjects - historical, current, or future - that come up in my plots, and point me in the right direction if I need more information. All in all, an excellent choice. I think it would make a fantastic gift for a family, or for science fans of nearly any stripe.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent history of key scientific developments. By S. A. ROBBINS Provides an excellent history of key technologies, science and medicine. The book is well written (although I think the typeface is a bit too small), with excellent drawings and photographs and covers a wide range of related topics. I think the book is great for students or adults as it can easily and thoroughly provide the history and current status of many scientific developments. I do take issue that the author seems to take every aspect as 100% factual when in many cases there is still speculation and hypothesis. This book also is not really a book about Innovation but scientific development but both issues are minor in the overall view of this book. If you are not a scientist yet want to see where and how some of the key technologies and scientific developments came about, this book will certainly provide that.

Written for science geeks and everyone curious about the world around us, this comprehensive sweep through modern science and technology is a solid family reference, covering the most important innovations and inventions in engineering, physics, medicine, chemistry, biology, and more. From the structure of the atom to the jet engine, from the world's fossil record to the theory of relativity: here are the critical breakthroughs in technology, the paradigm shifts that led to modern science, and the discoveries and accomplishments that shape our world today and our future tomorrow. Organized by realm of science and tracing key concepts from origins to the most exciting ideas and advances on the horizon, this book documents the interconnectedness among the crucial milestones of our time. Written in clear, authoritative prose, illustrated with essential photography and diagrams, and laid out in an entertaining and browsable way, this is the go-to book for answers about the way the world works.

About the Author JAMES S. TREFIL, a physicist and author of more than 30 books, is highly regarded as a serious scientist with a knack for explaining difficult concepts for a general audience. He was one of the trio of original authors of Cultural Literacy and has continued throughout his career to advocate scientific literacy for all. The Robinson Professor of Physics at George Mason University, he has worked with National Geographic Books not only as an author but frequently as an expert consultant for our books. DESTIN SANDLIN is an American engineer best known for his educational video series, Smarter Every Day, which is hosted on a YouTube channel of the same name and launched in 2007. Sandlin received his bachelor of science from the University of Alabama, where he studied mechanical engineering. Later he obtained a graduate degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He is a full-time Missile Flight Test Engineer at Redstone Arsenal.