

SCIENCE IN THE REAL WORLD

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Publisher: MoshPit Publishing

RRP: \$11.95

ISBN: 9780648165132 (paperback, 342 pages)

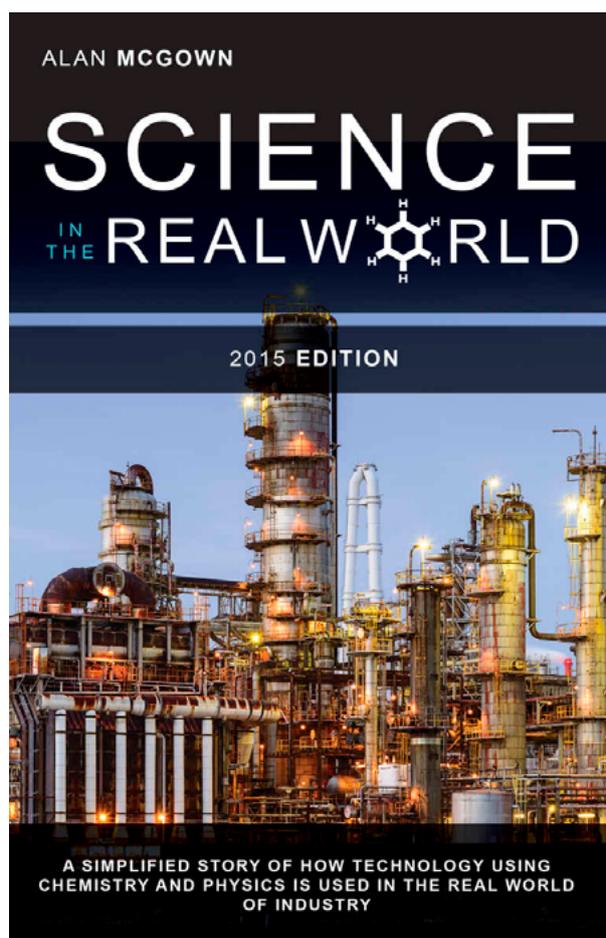
Reviewed by Jennifer Campbell

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The title, Science In The Real World, is encouraging. Students are often heard to question the necessity of learning science in high school and this reluctance can be a result of the trouble they have linking the classroom presentation of facts to a context in industry. This small volume, of less than A5 size and only 191 pages, offers real world examples of the science linked to some of the industrial processes taken for granted in our society. I found it interesting reading about processes that I had not encountered for some time, such as plastics, while younger readers could access information in the text on the states of matter. The content of the book covers a range of year levels, so students can revisit concepts as their knowledge or interest develops. Chapter 2 of the book provides a useful link between science, number and mathematics. The author includes an easy to read chapter on sampling and testing, explaining the basics of scientific tests. By linking a range of contexts the text aims to position the science we present in our classrooms to the wider community. The author has real world experiences in industry that utilises the science of chemistry and physics, this lends authenticity to the information presented on industrial processes.

There is a clearly laid out index at the beginning of the book so that students can easily find a topic of interest to them and jump through the text to the relevant section of the book. This feature would facilitate engagement with the text in a classroom. The information is clearly presented, without going into too much overwhelming detail, in language that



is accessible to a young reader. The book contains simple, clear diagrams that are easy to interpret. Each chapter starts with a set of key words which would assist students when they are searching for information.

This book may well appeal to students in STEM classes as it is small in size, doesn't have too many pages, is relatively inexpensive (AU \$11.95) and easy to use when accessing information on how a scientific process could be applied.