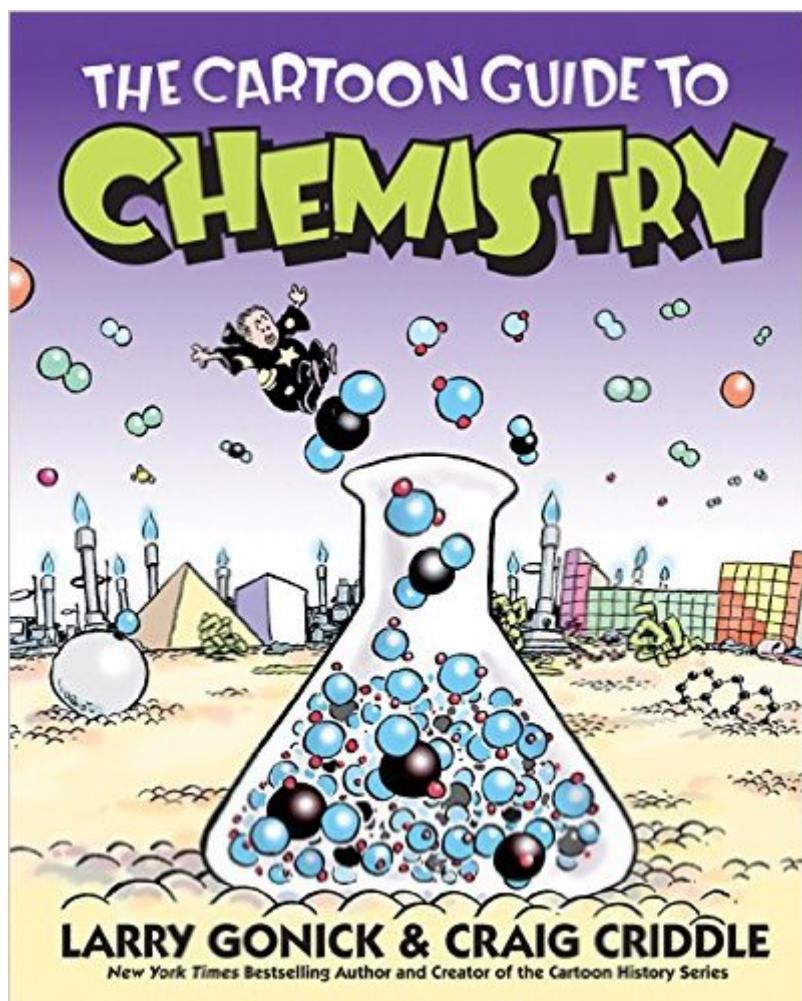


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The Cartoon Guide To Chemistry



Synopsis

If you have ever suspected that "heavy water" is the title of a bootleg Pink Floyd album, believed that surface tension is an anxiety disorder, or imagined that a noble gas is the result of a heavy meal at Buckingham Palace, then you need The Cartoon Guide to Chemistry to set you on the road to chemical literacy. You don't need to be a scientist to grasp these and many other complex ideas, because The Cartoon Guide to Chemistry explains them all: the history and basics of chemistry, atomic theory, combustion, solubility, reaction stoichiometry, the mole, entropy, and much moreâ "all explained in simple, clear, and yes, funny illustrations. Chemistry will never be the same!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have been a fan of Larry Gonick's work for years ever since I first stumbled onto his Cartoon Guide to Statistics. He covers a subject the way it should be covered-historically. Innovations in science and math have moved along together in a historical time line. It was this historical approach that made Carl Sagan's Cosmos series one of the greatest innovations in the effort to popularize science. I have long said that we teach science backward. We still teach on a 19th Century model. We start with biology, then chemistry, and finally physics. Even when I was in high school, I wished that I could take physics before chemistry. Before I was elected as a school board director, I was on our district's Gifted Advisory Council. I made the suggestion that we teach physics before chemistry and, then, biology last. I was immediately shot down by one of the other parents on the basis that sophomores do not have the math courses under their belts to tackle physics. So why not teach the

math along with the science? Integrate it. (No, that would make it too relevant.) I felt vindicated when a friend of mine reported that she attended a lecture by a Nobel laureate making the same assertion that I had been making for years—we teach science backwards. After all, the toughest course out there is biochemistry—at least that is what every med student I know has ever said. And biochemistry is the new frontier for blockbuster innovations—nano-technology not being the least of these frontiers. Gonick underscores my assertion about teaching physics first, because in this book on chemistry, he introduces quantum mechanics, which is normally taught as physics, on page 28.

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