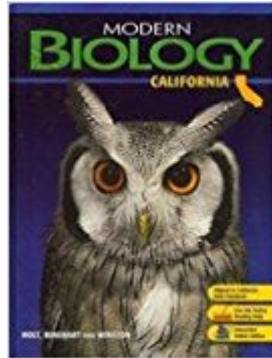




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# Modern Biology California



## Synopsis

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## Book Information

Series: Modern Biology

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## Customer Reviews

modern biology

The book arrived earlier than stated. It is great to have an extra text book for my kid. Their backpacks are sooooo heavy, they'll develop back problems if they carried these books around all over, back and fro. This book stays at home as reference. Thanks.

Just what we expected

I inadvertantly ordered the wrong edition of "Modern Biology". Still waiting for Howeazy totell me how to return it for a cash refund. It's been over a month and I haven't heard a thing.

I would like to write a review of the textbook itself, rather than how fast it was delivered or issues related to the supplier. I hope this review reaches the authors or curriculum planners or school districts, because we need some changes. I am a physician, and I LOVE biology. I am also an educator who focuses on teaching doctors in training. My son is in 9th gr Bio Honors and was struggling. I started reading along with him and helping him study. I was appalled to discover that Modern Biology is basically a several hundred page long litany of lengthy vocabulary words strung

together with minimal true explanation or focus on central concepts. Kids are getting lost in memorizing all the complex terms. We have reached the chapter on genetics and I am so sad to see what was my very favorite biology topic reduced to a laundry list of terms. THIS BOOK MAKES BIOLOGY NOT FUN. I am not sure whether it is the fault of the textbook authors or the not-very-skilled people who develop curricula. It is possible that the "Standards" have become so complex and lengthy that the authors felt compelled to pack their chapters in this unappealing way. However a quick glance at the CA standards makes me think that they give some latitude in determining exactly what to teach within a topic. The chapters on photosynthesis and cellular respiration were appalling. The level of detail and memorization required of students for these topics was grueling. I think it was beyond my college premed biochemistry class in the coverage of the chemical reactions involved. 14 year old kids memorize names of chemical compounds such as oxaloacetic acid and many many others, and in doing so, the joy and gist of metabolism are lost. It wasn't quite to the level of detail as med school biochemistry but boy it was close. 9th grade biology teachers are forcing this stuff down kids throats before they have a chance to realize they can LOVE biological sciences. We wonder why we have too few scientists? I think I found the answer. So very very sad. What's good about the book? Well the editing is pretty good. The colors are pretty. It's big. That's it, so far.

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