Exercises in order to increase the number of practice questions for students and assignable homework questions for instructors.

THE LEARNING SYSTEM

To achieve the goals stated, this text includes a variety of features that should make student's study of *Integrated Science* more effective and enjoyable. These aids are included to help you clearly understand the concepts and principles that serve as the foundation of the integrated sciences.

OVERVIEW TO INTEGRATED SCIENCE

Chapter 1 provides an overview or orientation to integrated science in general and this text in particular. It also describes the fundamental methods and techniques used by scientists to study and understand the world around us.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Chapter Opening Tools

Core Concept and Supporting Concepts

Core and Supporting Concepts integrate the chapter concepts and the chapter outline. The Core and Supporting Concepts outline and emphasize the concepts at a chapter level. The supporting concepts list is designed to help studets focus their studies by identifying the most important topics in the chapter outline.

Connections

The relationship of other science disciplines throughout the text are related to the chapter's contents. The core concept map, integrated with the chapter outline and supporting concepts list, the connections list, and overview, help students to see the big picture of the chapter content and the even bigger picture of how that content relates to other science discipline areas.

Chapter Overviews

Each chapter begins with an introductory overview. The overview previews the chapter's contents and what students can expect to learn from reading the chapter. It adds to the general outline of the chapter by introducing students to the concepts to be covered. It also expands upon the core concept map, facilitating in the integration of topics. Finally, the overview will help students to stay focused and organized while reading the chapter for the first time. After reading this introduction, students should browse through the chapter, paying particular attention to the topic headings and illustrations so that they get a feel for the kinds of ideas included within the chapter.

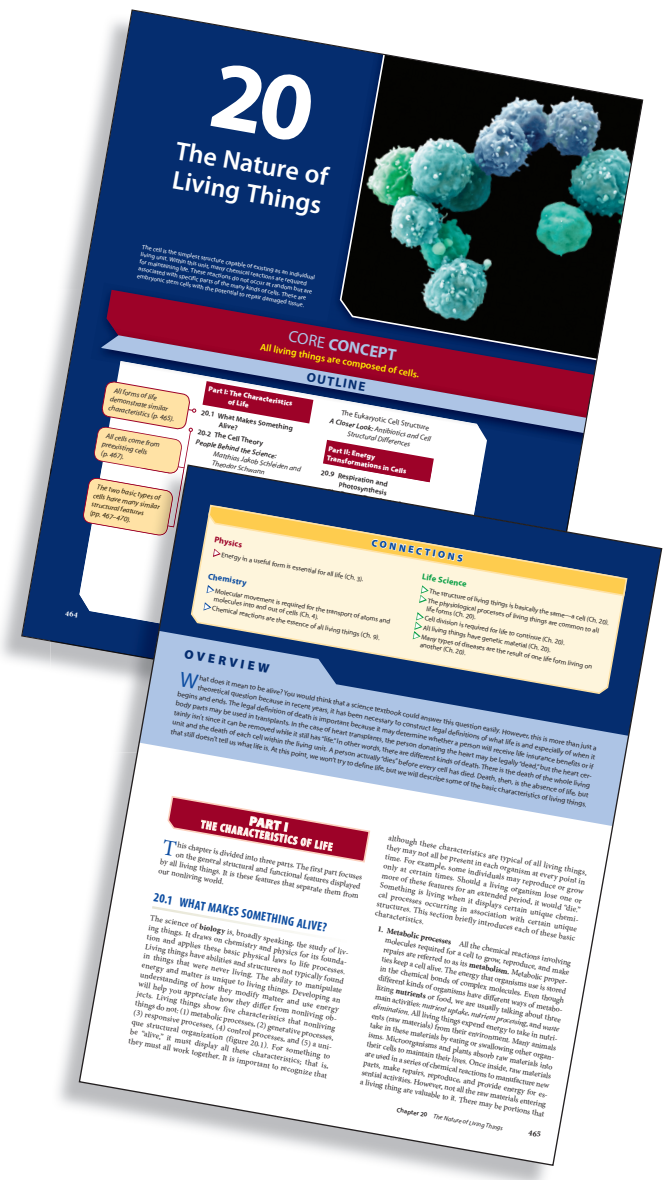
APPLYING SCIENCE TO THE REAL WORLD

Concepts Applied

As students look through each chapter, they will find one or more Concepts Applied boxes. These activities are simple exercises that students can perform at home or in the classroom to demonstrate important concepts and reinforce their understanding of them. This feature also describes the application of those concepts to their everyday lives.

Examples

Many of the more computational topics discussed within the chapters contain one or more concrete, worked **Examples** of a problem and its solution as it applies to the topic at hand. Through careful study of these Examples, students can better appreciate the many uses of problem solving in the sciences.



Follow-up Examples (with their solutions found in Appendix D) allow students to practice their problem-solving skills. The Examples have been marked as "optional" to allow instructors to place as much emphasis (or not) on problem solving as deemed necessary for their courses.

Science and Society

These readings relate the chapter's content to current societal issues. Many of these boxes also include Questions to Discuss that provide students an opportunity to discuss issues with their peers.

Myths, Mistakes, and Misunderstandings

These brief boxes provide short, scientific explanations to dispel a societal myth or a home experiment or project that enables students to dispel the myth on their own.

People Behind the Science

Many chapters also have one or two fascinating biographies that spotlight well-known scientists, past and present. From these People Behind the Science biographies, students learn about the human side of science: science is indeed relevant, and real people do the research and make the discoveries. These readings present the sciences in real-life terms that students can identify with and understand.

Closer Look and Connections

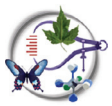
Each chapter of *Integrated Science* also includes one or more **Closer Look** readings that discuss topics of special human or environmental concern, topics concerning interesting technological applications, or topics on the cutting edge of scientific research. These readings enhance the learning experience by taking a more detailed look at related topics and adding concrete examples to help students better appreciate the real-world applications of science.

In addition to the **Closer Look** readings, each chapter contains concrete interdisciplinary **Connections** that are highlighted. **Connections** will help students better appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of the sciences. The **Closer Look** and **Connections** readings are informative materials that are supplementary in nature. These boxed features highlight valuable information beyond the scope of the text and relate intrinsic concepts

discussed to real-world issues, underscoring the relevance of integrated science in confronting the many issues we face in our day-to-day lives. They are identified with the following icons:

> *"A Closer Look: The Compact Disc was, again, an excellent application of optics to everyday life and to something modern students thrive on—CDs and DVDs."*
>
> —Treasure Brasher, West Texas A&M University

> *"Connections—wonderful!!!. . . . . A Closer Look . . . excellent. Clear, interesting, good figures. You have presented crucial information in a straightforward and uncompromising way."*
>
> —Megan M. Hoffman, Berea College



General: This icon identifies interdisciplinary topics that cross over several categories; for example, life sciences and technology.

Life: This icon identifies interdisciplinary life science topics, meaning connections concerning all living organisms collectively: plant life, animal life, marine life, and any other classification of life.

Technology: This icon identifies interdisciplinary technology topics, that is, connections concerned with the application of science for the comfort and well being of people, especially through industrial and commercial means.

Measurement, Thinking, Scientific Methods: This icon identifies interdisciplinary concepts and understandings concerned with people trying to make sense out of their surroundings by making observations, measuring, thinking, developing explanations for what is observed, and experimenting to test those explanations.

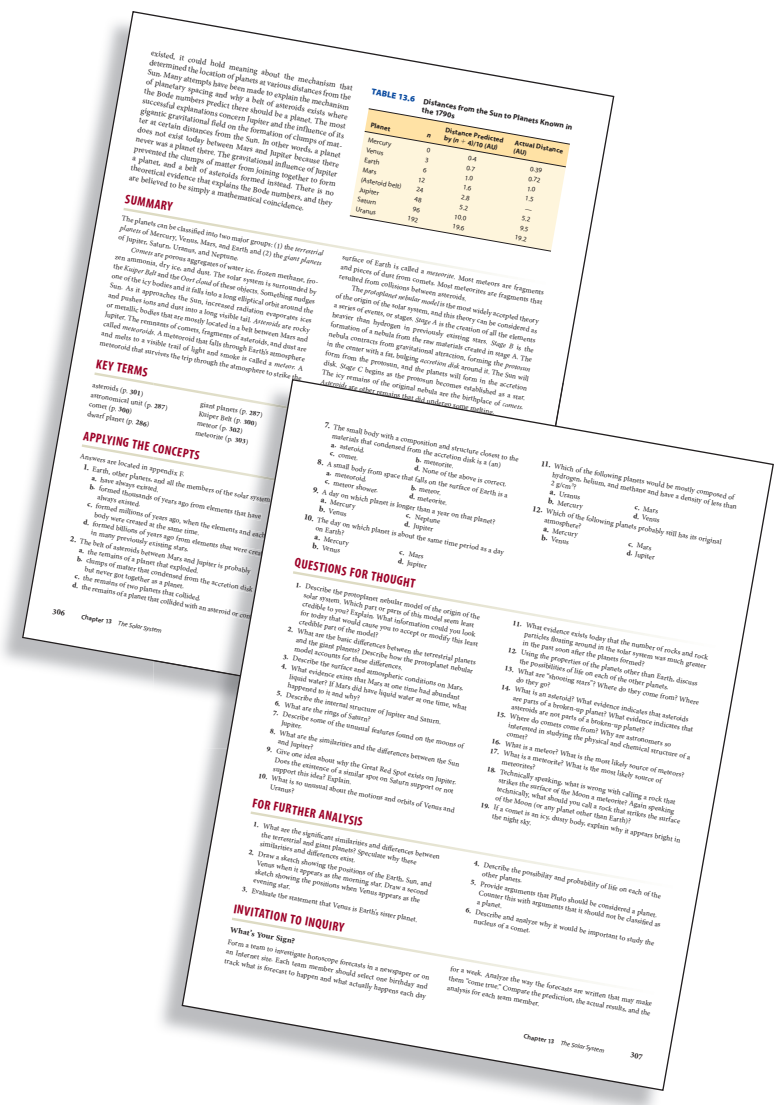
Environmental Science: This icon identifies interdisciplinary concepts and understandings about the problems caused by human use of the natural world and remedies for those problems.

END-OF-CHAPTER FEATURES

At the end of each chapter are the following materials:

- *Summary:* highlights the key elements of the chapter
- *Summary of Equations* (chapters 1–9, 11): highlights the key equations to reinforce retention of them
- *Key Terms:* page-referenced where students will find the terms defined in context
- *Applying the Concepts:* a multiple choice quiz to test students' comprehension of the material covered (Answers are included in appendix F.)
- *Questions for Thought:* designed to challenge students to demonstrate their understandings of the topic
- *For Further Analysis:* exercises include analysis or discussion questions, independent investigations, and activities intended to emphasize critical thinking skills and societal issues, and develop a deeper understanding of the chapter content
- *Invitation to Inquiry:* exercises that consist of short, open-ended activities that allow students to apply investigative skills to the material in the chapter
- *Parallel Exercises* (chapters 1–9, 11): There are two groups of parallel exercises, Group A and Group B. The Group A parallel exercises have complete solutions worked out, along with useful comments in appendix G. The Group B parallel exercises are similar to those in Group A but do not contain answers in the text. By working through the Group A parallel exercises and checking the solution in appendix G, students will gain confidence in tackling the parallel exercises in Group B and thus reinforce their problem-solving skills.

> *"I like the key terms with the page numbers with each one. I always like to see more conceptual- and synthesis-type questions, which is why I like the 'Questions for Thought' and 'For Further Analysis' parts. . . . Exercises such as 'Questions for Thought' number 7, having students think about why oxygen is in Earth's atmosphere but not in Venus or Mars' atmosphere, is a valuable sort of question, because it requires students to know something and apply it."*
>
> —Jim Hamm, Big Bend Community College



END-OF-TEXT MATERIAL

At the back of the text are appendices that give additional background details, charts, and answers to chapter exercises. Appendix E provides solutions for each chapter's follow-up Example exercises. There are also a glossary of all key terms, an index organized alphabetically by subject matter, and special tables printed on the inside covers for reference use.

> *". . . many books addressing similar disciplines have a tendency to talk over a student's head, making a student frustrated further in a class they do not want to be attending. . . . Personally, I would admit that* Integrated Science *has a slight edge. The glossary seems up-to-date and centers in on words many nonscience majors may not understand."*
>
> —David J. DiMattio, St. Bonaventure University