

Monumental Mistakes and Mind-Boggling Mishaps

If you are ready to learn from the silly mistakes of the past, then this is the book for you. This book is your guide to some of the strangest science ever seen, and you'll also discover that some of the things scientists told you were wrong were actually right!

The perfect book for all those who have a thirst for the weird, the wonderful and the downright wacky, *A Young Scientist's Guide to Faulty Freaks of Nature* contains hands-on experiments as well as startling facts about crazy chemistry, birdbrained biology, foolhardy physics and scientists creating planetary-wide chaos.



JAMES DOYLE was born in inner city Belfast at the height of the notorious "Troubles" period. From an early age he dodged the bullets and bombs of the city by immersing himself in books about far-flung, exotic places. He is a full-time teacher of geography at Our Lady & St. Patrick's College in Belfast.

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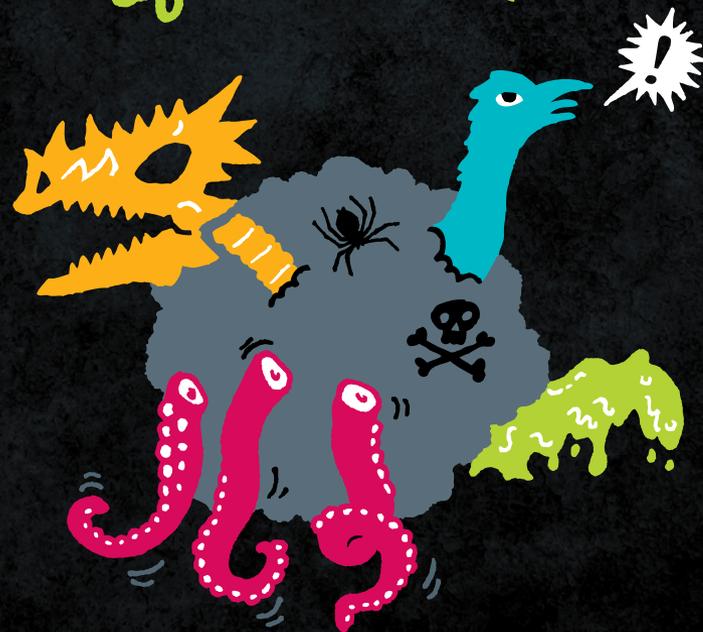
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by Andrew J. Brozyna.

DOYLE
A Young Scientist's Guide to FAULTY FREAKS of NATURE



GIBBS
SMITH

A Young Scientist's Guide to FAULTY FREAKS of NATURE



INCLUDES **20** EXPERIMENTS for the sink, bathtub and backyard

JAMES DOYLE

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Lyre the Liar

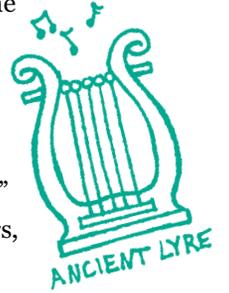
The Lyrebird is an extraordinary creature with a very special talent. Native to the rainforests of Australia, this shy and often hidden bird is a master of disguise. You see, the lyrebird loves to sing and will quite happily belt out its songs for most of the daylight hours, but the Lyrebird's talent lies in its ability to "lie" or at least "trick" other animals.

Lyrebirds can, very convincingly, copy the individual songs of other birds and the noise created by flocks of birds. Even better, they can also copy the calls of other animals, including those of koala bears and the howls of wild dingoes.

HUMAN IMPACT

In its rainforest environment, the lyrebird is very happy to sing and trick those who live alongside it. But, unfortunately, humans have destroyed much of the lyrebird's habitat. Our desire for more and more rainforest materials has meant that the lyrebirds are coming into contact with increasing numbers of human beings, and this has added an unbelievable "twist" to the lyrebird's ability to copy other sounds.

Scientists and researchers have now recorded the lyrebird copying the noises they hear from the loggers and their equipment. These include the perfect mimicking of the buzz of chainsaws as the trees of the rainforest are cut away, the rumble of a car engine or the sirens of a car alarm. Better still, the little "liars" can even copy the sound of gunshots, camera shutters, baby cries and dogs barking.



IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY...

So, if you find yourself in the Australian rainforest, don't get frightened or paranoid by the noises that surround you. The sound of gunshots and dogs may not mean that you are being hunted down. The high-pitched screams of a baby crying far from any other humans doesn't necessarily mean that you have entered a horror movie. You may have just encountered the little "liar," the lyrebird.



YOUNG SCIENTIST ACTIVITY

How to Blow Up a Balloon Using Chemistry

Using clever chemistry in this experiment, you will inflate a balloon without ever needing to blow it up yourself.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

- One small, see-through soda bottle
- One spoonful of sugar
- One small balloon
- One packet of yeast
- Some warm water

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Take the small soda bottle and fill it with around one inch (3 cm) of warm water.
2. Take your packet of yeast and empty it slowly into the bottle; stir the mixture.
3. Add a spoonful of sugar and stir once more.
4. Blow up the balloon several times and stretch it in your hands (this will make it easier to inflate). Fit the balloon over the top of the soda bottle.
5. Let the bottle sit in a warm place like a radiator for about 30 minutes—If the bottle is well sealed and if the yeast has the right conditions, the balloon will inflate all on its own.



Science Factoid

The yeast is made up of tiny microorganisms who are very hungry. When mixed with the warm water and sugar, the yeast starts to eat the sugar. As it does, it releases a gas called carbon dioxide. This gas fills the bottle first and then the balloon.