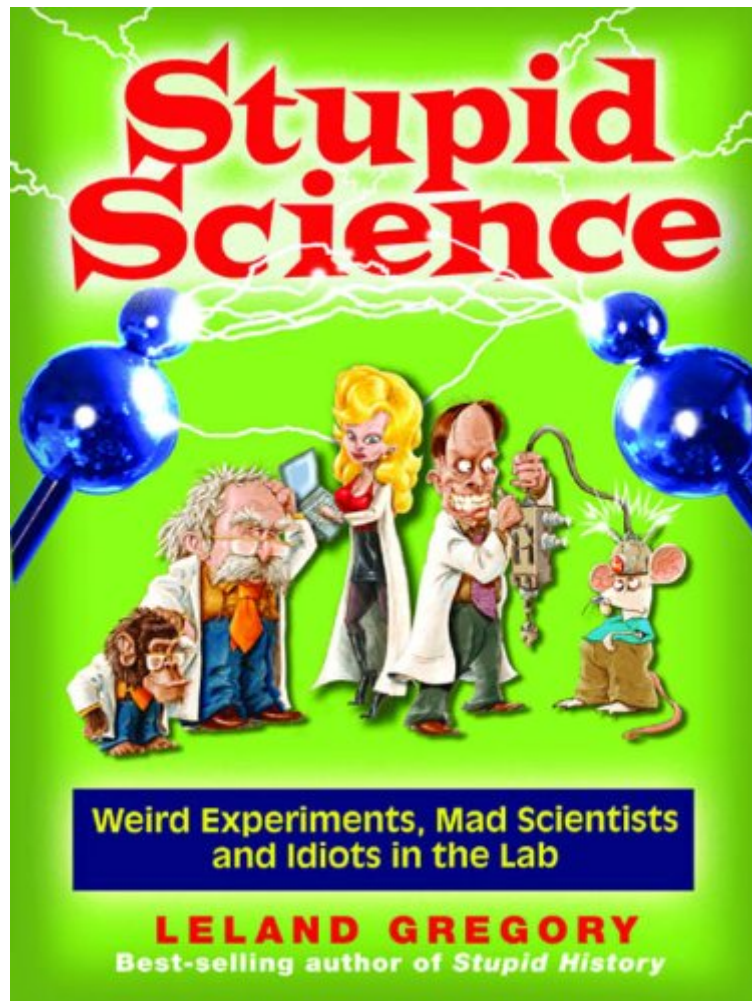


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# Stupid Science: Weird Experiments, Mad Scientists, And Idiots In The Lab (Stupid History)



## Synopsis

New York Times best-selling humorist Leland Gregory chronicles laboratory experiments gone awry, modern-day mad scientists, and scientific mythconceptions inside Stupid Science. Consider these cases of misdirected human activity, each in the name of science:\* The Illinois Department of Conservation spent \$180,000 to study the contents of owl vomit.\* Georgia State University psychology professor James Dabbs discovered in 1988 that trial lawyers have about 30 percent more testosterone in their bodies than normal people (regardless of gender). Dabbs stated in the Journal of Applied Social Psychology that high testosterone levels are often linked to aggressiveness and antisocial behavior. We all knew that lawyers were full of something--now we know it's testosterone.\* What do stinky cheese and unclean feet have in common? They both attract mosquitoes according to a November 8, 1996 article from Reuters.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although there are smatterings of humorous two-liners in this little book, it quickly becomes apparent that the author 'defines' stupid science as whatever material he doesn't either have the

background to understand, or the interest in actually learning about. For example, he apparently thinks it's pretty stupid for researchers to test which tentacles octopuses use by handing test subjects Rubik's Cubes. It seems likely the cubes were selected because 1. they're large enough to not be eaten by the animals; 2. because the cubes are colorful, so determining subtle manipulations to the cube will be apparent when the color patterns change on the cube faces; 3. the cubes would allow fairly easy observation of which arms are doing what, if anything. The stupid part is that evidently the book's author thinks researchers are wondering if the brainy mollusks will solve the Rubik's Cubes. In his own 'excerpt' it states clearly: Researchers are testing which tentacles are used NOT: Researchers are testing whether octopuses can solve the Rubik's puzzle. There are many other similarly stupid anecdotes in this cut-n-paste style book. The author is unclear on the concept that sometimes that which seems 'silly' to the untrained eye (or closed little mind) actually has real purpose and ultimately the potential of real significance...even in his narrow little world!

This book is nothing more than a collection of extremely short factoids, probably gleaned from speed-reading U.S.A. Today. The author has no interest in understanding science, only in trying to get you to laugh at scientists for studying weird subjects. One of his items says in its entirety (I'm paraphrasing): "Pointyheaded University spent \$180,000 to study owl droppings!" Ha. Losers. Great stuff, if you love owl dropping humor. Millions of grade schoolers could tell you that owl pellets contain the complete skeletons of their prey, and dissecting these pellets will let you see exactly what the owls are eating. Those kids are nerds. You won't find any nerdy "context" or "learning" in this book, by golly! Parents, buy this for your kids-- they'll get the message that science is for losers and studying is deeply uncool.

Leland Gregory and Andrews McMeel Publishing have made a mint cranking out short-and-sweet page-turners detailing Stupid Crooks, Stupid Politicians, etc. STUPID SCIENCE, published in 2009, turns a jaundiced eye to the world of science and, not unexpectedly, uncovers various examples of WEIRD EXPERIMENTS, MAD SCIENTISTS, AND IDIOTS IN THE LAB. The "Stupid Science" label puts too black of a spin on the book's contents. Some items such as research projects on nose picking, pigeons and GPS, bellybutton lint, duck quacks and devices that analyze dog barks certainly would be in the running for the Golden Fleece Award given by the late, great Senator Bill Proxmire. However, some items merely report on odd or not-so-bright scientific articles, inventions, pronouncements, etc. The funniest items in STUPID SCIENCE are the running series of actual answers given on science exams (e.g., Q: Name the Four Seasons; A: Salt, Pepper, Mustard and

Vinegar). In short, STUPID SCIENCE and similar titles are fairly harmless, often entertaining and inexpensive fluff-pieces perfect for lunchtime reading or burning up the hours spent on an airliner. Recommended.

Another great addition to the Leland Gregory collection. This book is interesting, informative, and funny!

I think that this is a very funny book because it is about idiots that are stupid we think i think

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