

Contents

Introduction	xi
Part 1 Exploring the Universe	1
1 Two Footprints – Super Bangs and Starter Packs	3
The First Footprint – Super Bangs	3
Pyrotechnics, balloons and crunches – universe evolution	5
From the sublime to the ridiculously tiny – subatomic particles	9
Other idiosyncrasies	12
A mysterious yet reasonable universe	17
The Second Footprint – Starter Packs	18
Life emerges	19
Variety	27
Conclusions	35
Ideas for Discussion	36
References and Further Reading	37