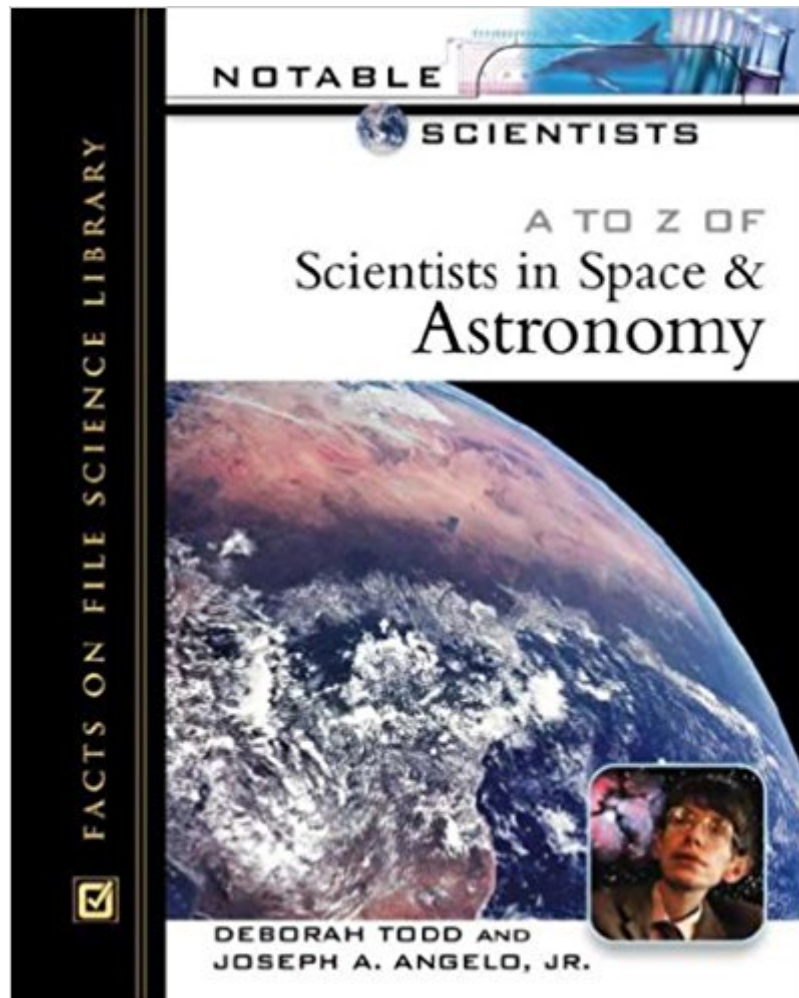




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A To Z Of Scientists In Space And Astronomy (Notable Scientists)



Synopsis

Designed for high school through early college students, *A to Z of Scientists in Space and Astronomy* is an ideal reference to notable male and female scientists in the field of space and astronomy, from antiquity to the present. Containing more than 160 entries and 50 black-and-white photographs, the authors emphasize the scientists' contributions to the field as well as his or her effect on scientists who have followed. The book is organized with a general introduction that explains who is in the book and why; a list of entries; the entries themselves; indexes by field of specialization, nationality, subject area, and chronology; a bibliography; and an index.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Another title in the Facts on File Notable Scientists series, designed to give concise information to students in grades nine and up. It includes information on about 140 individuals--their work, families, major achievements, and contributions to their scientific field. Entries are alphabetically arranged, run about 750 to 1,200 words, and are often accompanied by a small black-and-white photo. The volume tries to be representative of men and women from many countries and throughout history. Subjects include Annie Jump Cannon, Aristotle, Galileo, Edmund Halley, and Stephen Hawking.

Maria Mitchell is omitted. Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova has an entry, but no other cosmonauts or astronauts are represented. In-text cross-references to other articles within each volume are done in bold type. There are lists of entries sorted by field, country of birth, country of major activity, and time period, in addition to a general index. The bibliography includes many books and Web sites from the 1990s and later. This title is more inviting and easier to use than Isaac Asimov's trusty Biographical Encyclopedia of Science and Technology (rev. ed., Doubleday, 1982). It will be a useful though not essential purchase, where the other series titles are used. Susan Gooden

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"This is a readable, concise, and well-organized collection of biographical essays...Recommended."

In dictionary format this volume on Notable Scientists includes the thoroughness and accessibility Facts on File thrives on for presenting easy to research biographies of giants in the field. This volume is about those pioneers in space and astronomy that provided the core of knowledge that scientists are still accessing and using. There are familiar names, such as, Plato, Aristotle, Isaac Newton, Edmund Halley, Carl Sagan and Stephen Hawking, "...known as the scientist who explains to the masses the laws that govern the universe." This volume is easy to reach for as an authorized site for a "quick biography" that includes personal information, contributions to the field of science, and a picture. Besides learning about the highlights of the scientists' career, the researcher will also find the obstacles and personal tragedies that often beset the lives of these men. Although few women are included, they are sometimes included in the text. Edward Charles Pickering employed women to be "observational astronomers" and help produce Henry Draper Catalogue, funded by the widow of Draper.

This book is very heavy on astronomy types. The space program which is more recent is also represented. It is meant as a reference with biographies of people not always well known to the rest of the world like Susan Jocelyn Bell Burnell who earned her research director a Nobel Prize. Or Mary Fairfax Somerville who was a first in astrophysics for women. Since my n-dimensional Euclidean geometry is by another Somerville, that name caught my attention. This is a good biographical reference book in astronomy.

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