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Great Scientists (Great People In History (Rosen))



Synopsis

Science is an ever-growing, ever-changing field of study. Every principle, every discovery is built on top of a previous discovery. Great scientists have studied life, the environment, and the physical world trying to learn more about why things are the way they are. Readers gain insight to some of the greatest scientific minds history has to offer, from Archimedes to Stephen Hawking.

Book Information

Series: Great People in History (Rosen) (Book 5)

Library Binding: 128 pages

Publisher: Rosen Publishing Group (December 15, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1477704051

ISBN-13: 978-1477704059

Product Dimensions: 11.7 x 8.5 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

Gr 10 Up—Two- to four-page spreads on each scientist, mathematician, or ancient culture (e.g., the Mayans) compress biography, math, science, and historical context into dense paragraphs of text and calculations. High-school-level physics is a useful but not essential background for the science in *Scientists*, whereas a solid grounding in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus is necessary to follow the examples and diagrams in *Mathematicians*. While some words and concepts are defined in context and others in the glossary, the vocabulary is challenging throughout. Numerous unfamiliar terms (“quaternions,” “abscissa,” “cellular automata”) are mentioned without further explanation. Many of the images lack captions, especially in *Scientists*, and where captions are present they often provide little in the way of explanation; for example, it is left to readers to puzzle out that the numbers 10-14 to 104 refer to wavelength in a diagram of trichromatic theory. Furthermore, the authors set a poor example for researchers by entirely failing to cite their sources, including those for direct quotes. The tone in *Scientists* is somewhat livelier than the leaden prose of *Mathematicians*, but the appeal and

usefulness to young adults are limited for both books. – Sarah Stone, San Francisco Public Library
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