

Hubble, Edwin P Encyclopedia Article

Hubble, Edwin P

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.



Contents

Hubble, Edwin P Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Hubble, Edwin P.....	3



Hubble, Edwin P

American Astronomer 1889-1953

American astronomer Edwin Powell Hubble's (1889-1953) key discovery was his finding that the universe is expanding.* Hubble received undergraduate degrees in math and astronomy from the University of Chicago.

Edwin P. Hubble is best known for his determination that the more distant the galaxy, the quicker it moves away from Earth. This implied that the universe was expanding and led the way to the Big Bang theory.

Upon graduation, he was awarded a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University, where he studied law. After some time as a lawyer and teacher, he returned to the University of Chicago to pursue a doctorate in astronomy. During his studies, World War I (1914-1918) began. Hubble enlisted in the army and rose to the rank of major.

After the war, Hubble worked at Mount Wilson Observatory, California, which then contained the largest telescope in the world. In the early 1920s, scientists knew about our own **galaxy**, the Milky Way, but they did not know if anything was outside of it. Some had conjectured that **nebulae**, faint cloudy features in the night sky, were actually "island universes" or other galaxies. Hubble measured the distance to some of these nebulas and found that they indeed lay far outside the Milky Way. In further studies, he showed that these nebulas are actually other galaxies, and he went on to classify them.

*NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, launched in 1990, bears this noted astronomer's name.

See Also

Astronomy, History of (Volume 2); Astronomy, Kinds of (Volume 2); Galaxies (Volume 2); Hubble Constant (Volume 2); Hubble Space Telescope (Volume 2).

Bibliography

Christianson, Gale E. *Edwin Hubble: Mariner of the Nebulae*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1995.

Sharov, Alexander S., and Igor D. Novikov. *Edwin Hubble: The Discoverer of the Big Bang Universe*, trans. Vitalie Kisin. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1993.