

# Immanuel Kant Biography

## Immanuel Kant

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

<a href="#">Immanuel Kant Biography.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Biography.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>

# Biography

Considered one of the most important European philosophers of modern times, Immanuel Kant was not only a significant figure in the history of metaphysics, but also applied his keen intellect to fundamental issues in mathematics and physics. Born in Königsberg, East Prussia (now Russia), Kant thrived in school at a young age and enrolled at the University of Königsberg in 1740 as a theological student. Additionally, he was drawn to a wide range of central fields in philosophy and to the sciences, including mathematics, physics, and physical geography. After graduation Kant tutored in private homes for several years. Later, Kant became a lecturer at Königsberg, where he also received a master's degree in 1775.

During his lifetime, Kant received wide renown for his teachings and writings. One of Kant's first and most important scientific publications was a view of the **universe** called *General History of Nature and Theory of the Heavens* (1755). In it Kant hypothesized that the universe formed as the result of a spinning nebula, an idea that was later developed by French physicist and mathematician Pierre-Simon de Laplace (1749-1827) and, eventually, disproved. However, Kant was on the mark with his proposal of the existence of many "island universes," such as our own Milky Way, which he described as a lens-shaped collection of **stars**. In the *Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science* (1787), Kant stated that the study of nature must be grounded in mathematics. Although Kant is remembered for his efforts in metaphysical philosophy, he also contributed greatly to the philosophy of science. In his celebrated philosophical tome, *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781), which took 10 years to complete, Kant outlined his "Antinomies of Reason," or limits to understanding through scientific thought, which included Kant's arguments concerning philosophical issues such as the existence of God, free will, and immortality.

A small, stooped man who suffered from ill health throughout his life, Kant never traveled and spent his entire life in East Prussia. Nevertheless, his writings profoundly challenged many of the prevailing philosophical and scientific principles of his time. Kant's insights were applied to the physical sciences and to philosophical and religious movements such as transcendentalism. Kant died at the age of 79 and was buried in Königsberg. His tombstone is inscribed "The starry heavens above me and the moral law within me," representing the two major focuses of his life.