

Aryabhata the Elder Encyclopedia Article

Aryabhata the Elder

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

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Aryabhata the Elder Encyclopedia Article..... | 1 |
| Contents..... | 2 |
| Aryabhata the Elder..... | 3 |

Aryabhata the Elder

476-550

Indian astronomer and mathematician whose *Aryabhatiya* helped usher in a period of increased scientific curiosity in his country. Aryabhata suggested that the reason the stars and planets seem to move around Earth is that Earth is in fact rotating on its axis—an idea literally a thousand years ahead of its time. He also maintained that the Moon and planets reflect light rather than generating it, and that the planets' orbits describe ellipses rather than circles. In addition, Aryabhata provided an accurate explanation of the causes for solar and lunar eclipses, supplanting a prevailing superstition that these were caused by a demon named Rahu.