

Pliny the Elder Encyclopedia Article

Pliny 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

Pliny the Elder Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Pliny the Elder.....	3

Pliny the Elder

23-79

Roman scholar and writer who produced a comprehensive encyclopedia of zoology and botany, as well as astronomy, geography, and other topics. In the encyclopedia, *Historia Naturalis* (Natural History), Pliny compiled information gathered from some 2,000 written sources. In many cases, *Historia Naturalis* is the only remaining record of the works of ancient scholars. The 37-volume encyclopedia became a primary educational reference and remained in high regard until the fifteenth century, when critics determined that the books were rife with errors. It is now seen as an important literary work, but one that has little scientific merit.