

Posidonius of Rhodes Encyclopedia Article

Posidonius of Rhodes

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

Posidonius of Rhodes Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Posidonius of Rhodes.....	3

Posidonius of Rhodes

c. 135-c. 51 B.C.

Stoic philosopher and astronomer who improved on Hipparchus's (c. 170-c. 120 B.C.) estimate of Earth's distance to the Sun. He also disagreed with Eratosthenes's (c. 276-c. 294 B.C.) excellent calculation of 252,000 stades for Earth's meridian circumference. Posidonius's poorer and much smaller value of 180,000 stades encouraged Christopher Columbus to undertake his voyage of discovery. Posidonius was also the first to draw attention to the spring and neap tides. On a more philosophical note, he emphasized the hypothetical nature of scientific knowledge.