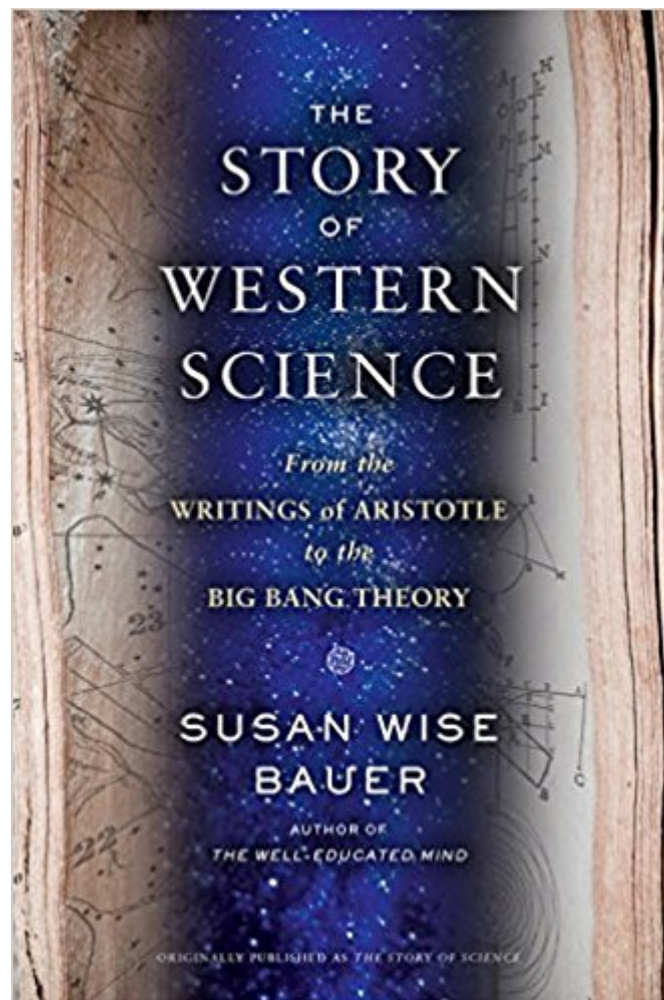


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# The Story Of Western Science: From The Writings Of Aristotle To The Big Bang Theory



## Synopsis

A riveting road map to the development of modern scientific thought. In the tradition of her perennial bestseller *The Well-Educated Mind*, Susan Wise Bauer delivers an accessible, entertaining, and illuminating springboard into the scientific education you never had. Far too often, public discussion of science is carried out by journalists, voters, and politicians who have received their science secondhand. *The Story of Western Science* shows us the joy and importance of reading groundbreaking science writing for ourselves and guides us back to the masterpieces that have changed the way we think about our world, our cosmos, and ourselves. Able to be referenced individually, or read together as the narrative of Western scientific development, the book's twenty-eight succinct chapters lead readers from the first science texts by Hippocrates, Plato, and Aristotle through twentieth-century classics in biology, physics, and cosmology. *The Story of Western Science* illuminates everything from mankind's earliest inquiries to the butterfly effect, from the birth of the scientific method to the rise of earth science and the flowering of modern biology. Each chapter recommends one or more classic books and provides entertaining accounts of crucial contributions to science, vivid sketches of the scientist-writers, and clear explanations of the mechanics underlying each concept. *The Story of Western Science* reveals science to be a dramatic undertaking practiced by some of history's most memorable characters. It reminds us that scientific inquiry is a human pursuit—an essential, often deeply personal, sometimes flawed, frequently brilliant way of understanding the world. *The Story of Western Science* is an "entertaining and unique synthesis" (Times Higher Education), a "fluidly written" narrative that "celebrates the inexorable force of human curiosity" (Wall Street Journal), and a "bright, informative resource for readers seeking to understand science through the eyes of the men and women who shaped its history" (Kirkus). Previously published as *The Story of Science*. 13 illustrations

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“[A]llows readers to hear the voices of history’s most influential researchers|. A canny narrative. Ms. Bauer’s guidebook exposes the underlying meaning and significance of each work, as well as its context in the overall development of science.” - Alan Hershfeld, Wall Street Journal  
“A bright, informative resource for readers seeking to understand science through the eyes of the men and women who shaped its history.” - Kirkus Reviews  
“An engaging compendium.” - Booklist

Susan Wise Bauer is a writer, teacher, and historian. Her books include *The Story of Science: From the Writings of Aristotle to the Big Bang Theory*, *The Well-Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home*, *The Well-Educated Mind: A Guide to the Classical Education You Never Had*, the *History of the World* series (W. W. Norton) and the *Story of the World* series (Well-Trained Mind Press). She has a Ph.D. in American Studies from the College of William & Mary in Virginia, as well as an M.A. in seventeenth-century literature and a Master of Divinity in Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Literature. For fifteen years, she taught literature and composition at the College of William and Mary. She lives in Virginia.

This book is another outstanding contribution by Susan Wise Bauer. It walks you through the development of scientific thought and discovery through the ages, with pointers to where to find accessible copies of the primary source documents, and tips on what to get from reading them--including a website with links to free copies and excerpts of the primary sources where available. This book belongs on the shelf for any individual who would like a better grounding in where our major western scientific ideas come from, how they impacted other scientists, and how scientists build upon the work of others, whether that means confirming a theory or moving ideas in a new direction. Homeschoolers with high school students will also love this book, no matter what style of homeschooling is practiced; it is not a book only for classical homeschoolers. I already have plans for a high school level philosophy of science course, and my 14 year old has been sneaking the book off to read parts of it. He knows our course from it will be a couple of years away yet, but it was just too enticing.

While I'm only just into the beginning, I like how she leads me through the classics of science. Although I've read some of them before, I have never read them as a chronological series. BYU used to offer a distance uni class that I didn't get around to taking before they got rid of it. This, so far, has been a great substitute, sans college credit.

The Story of Western Science covers major science advancements and the people behind them in topical and then chronological order. Each is explained to make it easy for the layperson to understand. The chapters end with links to pertinent writings and books (sometimes down to the edition) to read for more information about the topic. It would be very easy to turn into a science course for a high school student or for personal enrichment. I highly recommend this book!

This is a fantastic introduction to the people and the books that have created the modern world. Each chapter does a great job setting the context and introducing the major primary sources of the scientific canon. Just reading the chapters is an education in the history of science and ideas. An excellent resource for teens and adults who want to understand the context of science as it has been practiced for the past 2000 years.

This is a great reference book. I am very much into history and enjoyed Bauer's trilogy on world history, and saw that she also authored this. It can be read from front to back, but I think it is intended more as a reference for other great works. In sum, it is a good addition to any library.

An easy to understand overview of the major players and ideas in the development of current scientific theory and practice.

An excellent compendium of classic scientific thinking.

this book was for my husband he loved it and bought two more for friends

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