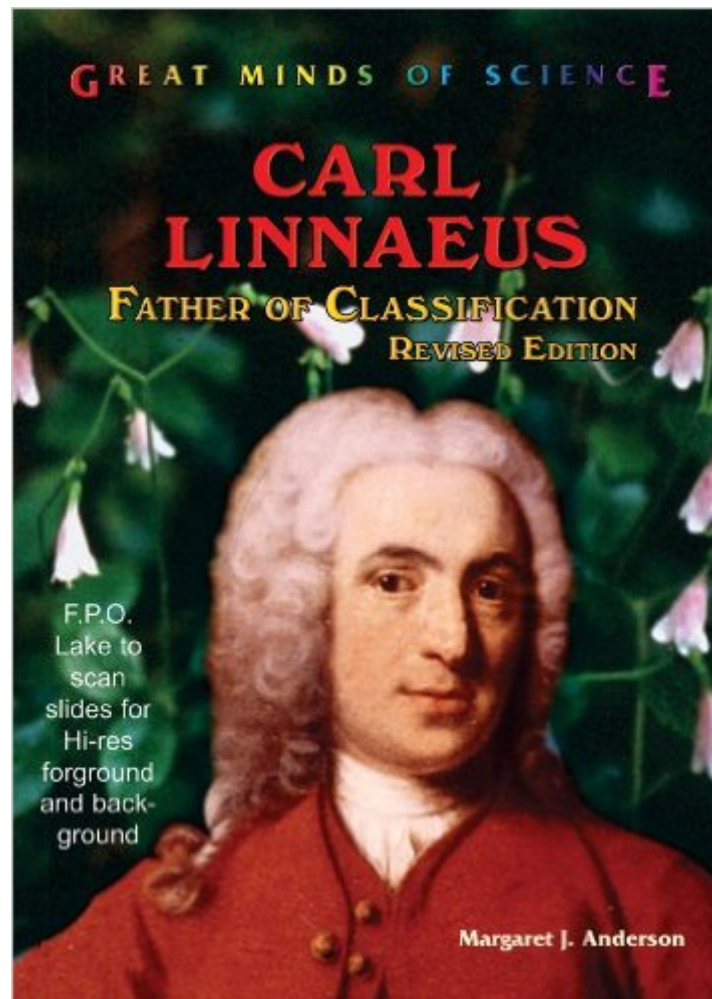


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Carl Linnaeus: Father Of Classification (Great Minds Of Science)



Synopsis

Profiles the life of the eighteenth-century Swedish naturalist whose scientific naming of plants and animals provided an international language of nature.

Book Information

Series: Great Minds of Science

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Age Range: 11 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

Customer Reviews

Carl Linnaeus is a scientific figure rarely taught about in either history or science courses. Known as the "father of classification", Linnaeus reformed the systems used to identify and name plants and animals, replacing them with the binomial (two-word) naming system. Most of us with some degree of biology training are familiar with the "formal" or scientific names for at least a few plants and animals: *Canis lupus* L. (gray wolf), *Felis domesticus* (domestic cat), *Rhus toxicodendron* L. (poison ivy). Despite graduating from high school biology I somehow missed that the L. present after so many scientific names stood for Carl Linnaeus, the man who originally named so many of them. Margaret J. Anderson's accessible biography of Linnaeus, *Carl Linnaeus: Father of Classification*, presents the Swedish scientist in an engaging and colorful format for middle school readers. Filled with accounts of Linnaeus' childhood, education, travels, writings, career, family, and more, there is plenty of personal detail here to engage the man on the level of human emotions. Anderson also provides insight into his passion for botany, and follows the development and

growing acceptance of binomial nomenclature. I greatly enjoyed learning the basic framework of the contributions Linnaeus made to science, his passion for botany, and how the experiences of nature in his childhood served as the driving force for the rest of his life. Concerned parents may wish to note that some brief mentions of evolution are made in reference to Darwin in the chapter "Before and After Linnaeus", but the vast majority of the text does not address the issue of origins at all.

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