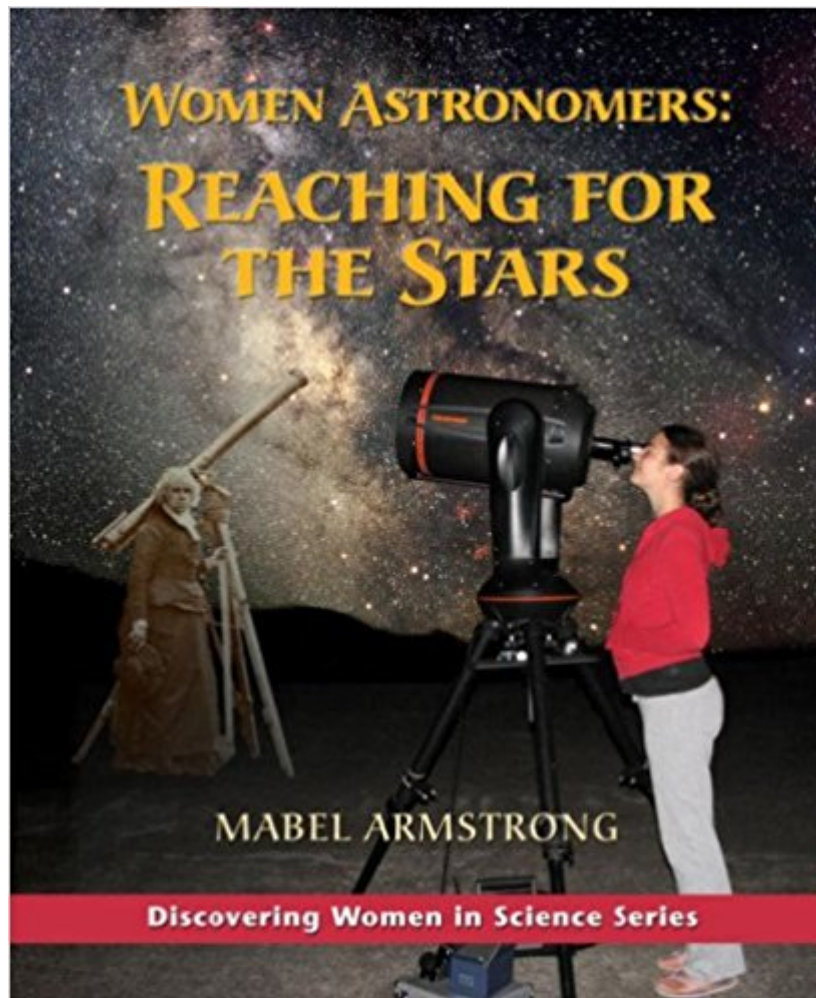




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# Women Astronomers: Reaching For The Stars (Discovering Women In Science)



## Synopsis

How much do you know about women astronomers? Besides Sally Ride, the first woman astronaut in space, probably not much. *Women Astronomers: Reaching for the Stars* by Mabel Armstrong, features short biographies of the key female scientists in this area. *Women Astronomers: Reaching for the Stars* is one of the few books on women in astronomy specifically targeted to young women in high school---but it's a great read for any age! You'll read about: \* Hypatia of Egypt, who worked in the famed Library at Alexandria, and invented the astrolabe around 400 B.C. She created it to locate and track the movement of the stars, and also labored to produce a detailed table of her observations. Sailors used the astrolabe and Hypatia's tables for navigation for the next 1200 years. \* America's First Lady of Astronomy was Maria Mitchell, of Nantucket, Massachusetts. She found her first comet in 1847, 61 years after Caroline Herschel of Hanover Germany--the first recorded modern female astronomer. \* Women were used as "computers," doing calculations necessary for astronomy and astrophysics from the 19th to the early 20th century. Females were employed because they could be paid less than male clerks, traditionally hired for such work. Many of America's greatest women astronomers got their start in this occupation. \* Two exceptional women led to the creation of the Hubble Space Telescope: Nashville's Nancy Grace Roman--frequently called the "Mother of the Hubble Space Telescope"--and Margaret Peachy Burbidge of the U.K. \* *Women Astronomers: Reaching for the Stars* describes these women and many more throughout history. \* Plus an important feature about today's "Rising Stars"!

## Book Information

Series: Discovering Women in Science

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## Customer Reviews

The first volume in the Discovering Women in Science series, this large-format paperback introduces significant women in astronomy, beginning with Enheduanna, a Babylonian Chief Astronomer Priestess who lived around 2350 BCE, and Hypatia of Alexandria, a renowned fifth-century Greek scholar. Nineteen subsequent chapters, featuring scientists that include the first American to have discovered a comet and a designer of the Hubble space telescope, span the gap between ancient times and the present day. With the exception of Sally Ride, the subjects are not well known, but their achievements are notable. Other women astronomers are profiled briefly in sidebars. Photos and other images appear throughout the book, which is also brightened by tan and gold highlights. A worthy addition to science collections, this well-documented collective biography not only fills gaps in existing books on astronomers but also offers engaging accounts of the women's careers as well as unusually clear explanations of what they achieved and why each discovery was important. Grades 7-10. --Carolyn Phelan

A worthy addition to science collections, this well-documented biography... fills gaps in existing books on astronomers. -- Booklist  
An easy-to-read history of women in astronomy. [Using] engaging language [that keeps] the reader's attention. -- ForeWord Magazine  
[M]ake[s] a significant addition to any library. [N]one of these women has received her due in resources for young readers. -- School Library Journal  
[M]ake[s] a significant addition to any library. [N]one of these women has received her due in resources for young readers. --School Library Journal

This book has information about women scientists who advanced our knowledge but who somehow are left out of textbooks and popular books on science. Here we have quite an assortment of forgotten women who over the centuries made important discoveries that years later usually and mostly have male names attached to them. The book was an eye-opener and I recommend it to everyone.

Good price & fast delivery. Condition was described as "new". As arrived it had a bend in front cover corner. Possibly from shipping. Gave as a gift so I wished it looked a little better. Condition OK for personal use, but for a gift I'll use local stores next time.

OK

Women Astronomers: Reaching for the Stars is a wonderful book, providing interesting and illuminating bios of women astronomers throughout history. The book starts with ancient times, tracing the evolution of our understanding of the heavens, as well as our technology. Women have always been a big part of these discoveries. Women Astronomers goes further, by highlighting up-and-coming "rising stars" - women who will make an impact on astronomy in the future. A terrific, engaging read for young people - and us older "young people"! Lots of side-bars explaining key concepts, so you won't get lost. You wouldn't think, in the 21st century, that we would still have problems getting girls to consider careers in the sciences, but we do. By age 14, studies show that young women's science test scores fall off the map. Maybe it's something to do with discovering boys, or harder math, or society discouraging women from sciences (still) - I don't know. But books like this make a difference. If you have a girl interested in astronomy, you must buy this book! Also, please make note of the fake "hardback" offerings of this book. Women Astronomers has never been offered in hardback. These are paperback books that have been laminated and either have been sold-off by libraries or anticipated sales were not made. Please do not buy these - or patronize the sellers of - these modified books. [Disclosure: I am the distributor for this book - but also a real fan!]

Mabel Armstrong: Women Astronomers: Reaching for the Stars (Discovering Women in Science Series, Stone Pine Press, Marcola, Oregon, 2008) WOMEN ASTRONOMERS is a collection of brief biographies of women whose curiosity, insight, and drive have brought them to question the workings of the universe, often coming to surprising answers. A few of these scientists lived in earlier centuries but most made their discoveries in the last few decades. All contributed profoundly to the way we understand the universe. The book's chapters include, in addition to the prominent biographies, thumbnail profiles of dozens of lesser-known scientists, descriptions of important discoveries, and explanations of the scientific principles they formulated. Mabel Armstrong's narrative conveys the enthusiasm that led eager minds to prominence in a paternalistic culture that has too often turned a blind eye to their contributions. Her selection of topics is superb. The scientific explanations, unfortunately, are not up to that standard. The explanations are much too often unclear, confusing, and misleading, and are too frequently just wrong. Most of the mistakes are minor (on page 95, for example, we are told that astronomers somehow realized that stars emit more than just visible light and that "high energy emissions, such as X-rays and radio waves, would

be detectable on Earth

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