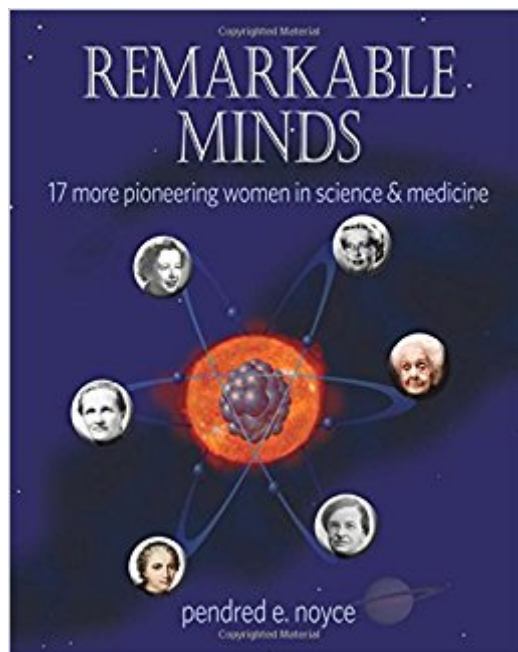




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# Remarkable Minds: 17 More Pioneering Women In Science And Medicine (Magnificent Minds)



## Synopsis

Winner: 2015 Foreword Reviews INDIEFAB Book of the Year, Juvenile Nonfiction (Children's)

Full of the inspirational stories girls need for exploring a future in science — For centuries, women have risen above their traditional roles to pursue a new understanding of the natural world. This book, which grows out of an exhibit at the Grolier Club in New York, introduces the lives, sayings, and dreams of 16 women over four centuries and chronicles their contributions to mathematics, physics, chemistry, astronomy, and medicine. Some of the notable women portrayed in the book include French mathematician Marie-Sophie Germain, known for her work in Elasticity theory, differential geometry, and number theory; Scottish chemist Elizabeth Fulhame, best known for her 1794 work — An Essay on Combustion; and Rita Levi-Montalcini, who, with colleague Stanley Cohen, received the 1986 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discovery of nerve growth factor. A companion volume to — Magnificent Minds — by the same author, this book offers inspiration to all girls and young women considering a life in the sciences. —

## Book Information

Series: Magnificent Minds

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Tumblehome Learning, Inc. (September 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0990782905

ISBN-13: 978-0990782902

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.8 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,377,399 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in — Books > Teens >

Education & Reference > Science & Technology > History of Science #93 in — Books > Teens >

Biographies > Science & Technology #214 in — Books > Teens > Biographies > Women

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up — •This well-researched, interesting companion to the author's Magnificent Minds: 16 Pioneering Women in Science and Medicine (Tumblehome Learning, 2015) adds 17 women. Examining notable figures who worked in areas as diverse as astronomy and DNA research, this

exploration is a revelation. Readers may recognize Marie Curie's equally accomplished daughter, Irène Joliot-Curie, but what of Emilie du Châtelet, who explored the worlds of mathematics and physics (and found time to delve into the world of love as well—a pastime tolerated by her often absent military husband)? Or Marietta Blau, the first to photograph cosmic rays, who was forced to abandon her research in the face of Nazi threats? Or Jane Cooke Wright, who made great strides in the field of chemotherapy? Here is a solid cadre of determined women, inspired in their approach to their chosen domains, all using their considerable talents to overcome the social expectations of their times to further knowledge. Each is awarded a lucidly written, readable biographical essay that not only delineates her research but also includes personal details that bring her to life. Each chapter is accompanied by a time line of personal experiences from the woman's own life and of historical and world events (including dates such as the start of World War I and Charles Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic). Sidebars on relevant topics add to the appeal, and illustrations (many tiny) are liberally scattered throughout. VERDICT This scholarly look at 17 remarkable, intelligent women devoted to research in science and medicine will round out science or biography collections. —Patricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public Library, NY

"This well-researched, interesting companion to the author's *Magnificent Minds: 16 Pioneering Women in Science and Medicine* . . . adds 17 women. Examining notable figures who worked in areas as diverse as astronomy and DNA research, this exploration is a revelation . . . Here is a solid cadre of determined women, inspired in their approach to their chosen domains, all using their considerable talents to overcome the social expectations of their times to further knowledge. Each is awarded a lucidly written, readable biographical essay that not only delineates her research but also includes personal details that bring her to life . . . Sidebars on relevant topics add to the appeal, and illustrations (many tiny) are liberally scattered throughout. VERDICT This scholarly look at 17 remarkable, intelligent women devoted to research in science and medicine will round out science or biography collections." —Patricia Manning, *School Library Journal*

Following closely on the heels of *Magnificent Minds: 16 Pioneering Women in Science & Medicine*, *Remarkable Minds* showcases sixteen more women who made pivotal contributions to science and medicine . . . Noyce succeeds especially at placing the women in context of their time and place, imparting a sense of their struggles and also, when appropriate, their advantages. With facts and well-placed anecdotes, she makes clear how the barriers to women differed (and remained the same) across countries, time periods, and social classes . . . Extremely readable, clearly written, and

occasionally provocative, this captivating volume should spark further interest in any one of these scientists, in their fields, and in their cultural circumstances." —Lisa Martincik, VOYA

Remarkable Minds: 16 More Pioneering Women in Science and Medicine introduces young readers ages 12 and older to the lives, sayings, and dreams of sixteen women spanning over four centuries and chronicles their contributions to mathematics, physics, chemistry, astronomy, and medicine . . . Remarkable Minds offers inspiration to all girls and young women considering a career in the sciences. Exceptionally well written, organized and presented . . . Remarkable Minds is very highly recommended, especially for school and community library biography and science history collections." —Midwest Book Review

There will come a day when gender and race and sexual orientation matter not one whit and equal opportunity exists for all. Alas, too many talented young girls still shy away from advanced math and science programs because subtle external forces work against them. Remarkable Minds shouts "you can do it" seventeen times over in its vivid portrayals of brilliant women from the fields of physics, chemistry, medicine, electrical engineering, astronomy, and more." —Matt Sutherland, Foreword Reviews

I recommend this book to all High School students, and to all adults too! Very well written, informative plus wonderful timelines

Written as a sequel to Magnificent Minds, Remarkable Minds, unearths seventeen pioneering women in the fields of science, medicine, mathematics, and engineering. These preeminent women, both married and single, span seven different countries. Exhibited among them is Maria Gaetana Agnesi of Italy who was the first woman to author and oversee the printing of an advanced mathematics textbook; Elizabeth Fulhame who pioneered the art of depositing bits of metal in silk to produce shimmering cloth; Hertha Ayrton, who established a sanctuary for women released from prison, was the first woman electrical engineer. Even though the timeline title for Jane Cooke Wright, chemotherapy pioneer and first African American to receive a medical degree from Yale, is inconsistent with the actual birth of Jane Cooke Wright, the timelines for each woman along with a well-balanced array of pictures provides visual frames of reference. This text not only gives factual information but shares obstacles to achievement along with the women's determination and resilience. Remarkable Minds, therefore, is motivating. For instance, Sophie Germain's parents 'worried about her health and the effects of study on the female mind' and limited her study time. As

an adult, Sophie suffered pain and breast cancer, yet she made substantial contributions to the field of mathematics. Gerty Cori, a victim of gender bias, explained how sugar is stored in the liver and released for use in the muscles. Although her salary was one fifth of her husband's, "Gerty published four papers on the effects of radiation on stained and unstained skin and on the metabolism of different body organs." Another example is that of Helen Taussig who suffered dyslexia and hearing loss. Not the less, she published some forty-one papers and became the first female president of the American Heart Association. The stories in Remarkable Minds exemplify the value of persistence. This historical work contains morsels of information such as the process of putrefaction, fallacy of the Phlogiston theory, discovery and identification of tuberculosis bacillus, the initial use of nuclear medicine, etc. All of which provide a backdrop to contextualize and clarify the biographies of such meritorious women. I highly recommend that Remarkable Minds be used as a textbook and reference for multicultural education as well as part of any STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) curriculum. My favorite quote: "Whatever field you choose, just work quietly and steadily to make this world a better place, and your life will be worthwhile." - Helen Taussig as quote by Pendred E. Noyce

I enjoyed this collection of brief biographies of women who were early mathematicians and physics experimenters, progressing through biochemistry and medicine to particle physics and electrical engineering. When I say early, our first lady is *Antoinette LeClerc de Breuille* who was born in France in 1706. She was a lover of Voltaire who is just one of the men featured alongside the women, as respecting scientific enquiry no matter who the enquirer and scientific accomplishment no matter who the scientist. The majority of the backgrounds of these ladies however is turbulent, full of war, revolution, bias and legal challenge. Wealthy families were guillotined or displaced. A Nobel Prize winner in physics, Irene Curie, daughter of Marie Curie, lived in a country where she could not vote, being a woman in France. Other women had papers published under the name of their husband, or their work was accredited to other scholars after their death. Good photos and paintings set the scene for us. Hertha Ayrton, born in England, was applauded by the Royal Society for her papers on electrical engineering, but they refused to admit her as a member, because a married woman had no standing in law. She was married to a professor, and not surprisingly became a militant suffragist. There is some humour to be found in the situation, now, but at the time the struggle of women to survive on a poorer salary than male teaching professors and while passed over for promotion, means that even the university environment was not an accepting one. The ladies like Florence Sabin, one of the first students at John Hopkins University, benefited from other

women's aid. This university was established as open to both sexes as a condition of a grant from Mary Elizabeth Garrett. Florence Sabin worked on tuberculosis and public health, winning much recognition in her later life. Jane Cooke Wright, born in 1919, faced further challenges, being the first African-American woman in her class; her work advanced chemotherapy. Marietta Blau, from a Jewish family, fled the Nazis and was awarded the Schrödinger Prize in 1962. Gerty and Carl Cori shared a Nobel for biochemistry. While Rosalind Franklin missed out on the Nobel for discovering the structure of DNA, to which her work had contributed. She had died before the prize was awarded, and it is not awarded posthumously, but it still seems a shame to have omitted her name. If this whets your appetite you will just have to read the book to find out more about these remarkable women, and then you may want to see what you have missed in the previous book, called *Magnificent Minds*, about more female pioneers of science and medicine. Many thanks to the author Pendred Noyce for collecting these inspiring stories.

Not only does this book tell of the achievements of these women, it gives their context, their background and the times in which they lived. I got a sense of who each one was and a sense of how hard they worked to have a life as well as a significant career in science. I am inspired and a bit overwhelmed at their struggles and persistence to do the things that made them happy despite illness, discrimination, and lack of recognition. I had only heard of one of them, Rosalind Franklin, whose work with imaging of DNA was used without credit by male researchers who received the Nobel Prize. Each of them had a lot of support from family, and in most cases were well off, despite social issues of the times. I have to wonder what today's young women could achieve if they knew more about these women, what they achieved, and the work that they did. I was given a copy of this book for an honest review.

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