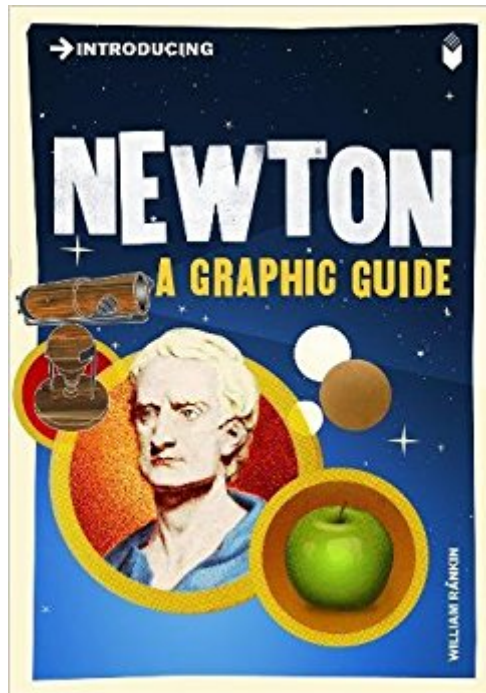




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Introducing Newton: A Graphic Guide



Synopsis

Brilliantly written and illustrated by William Rankin, *Introducing Newton* explains the extraordinary ideas of a man who sifted through the accumulated knowledge of centuries, tossed out mistaken beliefs, and single-handedly made enormous advances in mathematics, mechanics, and optics.

Book Information

Series: *Introducing*

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Customer Reviews

William Rankin: William Rankin has worked in London for *Oz* and the *Radio Times*; in France for *Actuel* and *Echo des Savanes*; and in Sweden for *Etc.* and *Dagens Nyheter*. Born in Edinburgh, he now lives in Paris and works for a major newspaper.

Obviously this is not where one turns to learn Physics --I however found it "fascinating" to learn about events that I was not aware of--Newton's contemporaries, his failures, politics of the day, and other events that were happening at the same time frame etc. I have always wanted to someday find time to read *Principia*--I don't think I have enough training to understand it though--but like most people who watch ER and have no idea of medicine--I guess in a similar voyeuristic fashion, I like to read about Physics and Mathematics ! This was an excellent book from that stand point of view--enough to create curiosity to "look for more". I wish I had read it when I was in school. Y. Trakru M.D.

This could be the best book in the "Introducing" series. It seems to have the best story, illustrations and topics. Newton is considered smarter than Einstein by many. It reads like an action movie. This is the best place to start on physics however I recommend that you also try "Introducing Mathematics" in this series if you need a maths refresher.

Core material: Arithmetic, Geometry, Pythagoras, Squaring the Circle, John Bate's The Mysterious of Nature and Art, Sundials, Fireworks, Physis - The nature of a thing is its end, Crystalline Spheres, Ptolemy and Earth as the centre, Copernicus and Sun as the centre, Strange motions of Mars, Tycho disproves Aristotle's fixed stars hypothesis by discovering Supernova, Tycho proves a comet in past the moon, Kepler covers 900 folio pages of Mars' orbit and discovers it is oval. Kepler creates Copernicus model with oval elliptical orbits. Galileo proves heavy and light bodies fall at same speed, Giovanni Battista della Porta develops telescope and Galileo develops it, Galileo talks about four moons of Jupiter, Venus phases, Saturn's rings, Spiral Galaxy in Andromeda, Galileo pushes Copernicus on the Church, Galileo publishes resistance, cohesion, motion and acceleration, projectile curves, Descartes, matter only effecting matter by contact, everything parts of a machine, doctor is a mechanic, vivisection and animals have no feelings. Euclid's Geometry, Schooten, Oughtred, Wallis and Descartes. Binomial Theorem and infinity, Fluxions, Calculus, Optics, White is a mixture of colors, Mirror telescope, Principia, Laws of Motion.

1. Every object in a state of uniform motion tends to remain in that state of motion unless an external force is applied to it.
2. The relationship between an object's mass m , its acceleration a , and the applied force F is $F = ma$. Acceleration and force are vectors (as indicated by their symbols being displayed in slant bold font); in this law the direction of the force vector is the same as the direction of the acceleration vector.
3. III. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

Core pages of the discoveries and math is on p.122-129

This book was assigned reading for an advanced course in engineering physics. It is more of a history book, cartoon style, than a serious book on the physics of motion and gravity as observed by Galileo and Newton. I found the presentations on important topics to be painfully vague. You may get a few soundbites from this book, but that's about it.

The treatment of Galileo could have been more accurate and less crude, but I really like this book. Excellent presentation of both history and ideas in the context of history. I gave a copy to my wife, and also require my students to read it when I teach both elementary and modern physics (relativity).

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