

Edwin Hubble

Born: November, 20, 1889, Marshfield, Missouri, United States

Died: September, 28, 1953, San Marino, California, United States



Overview

Edwin Hubble, one of the most underappreciated American geniuses of his time, changed our view of the universe. He observed countless galaxies beyond our own and paved the way for numerous other theories regarding the universe and our place in it. Not only was he an eloquent speaker, but he proved that intellectuals can also be athletic.

Hubble's Life

Ecobottle Sample

TWFF

This section has been removed

This scholarship, along with tutoring, another scholarship, and working as a laboratory assistant to renowned physicist Robert Milikan, financed his way to a degree in mathematics and astronomy in 1910. After college, he earned a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford, where he studied Roman and English law (to appease his dying father, who scorned his interest in astronomy), as well as literature and Spanish.

Ecobottle Sample

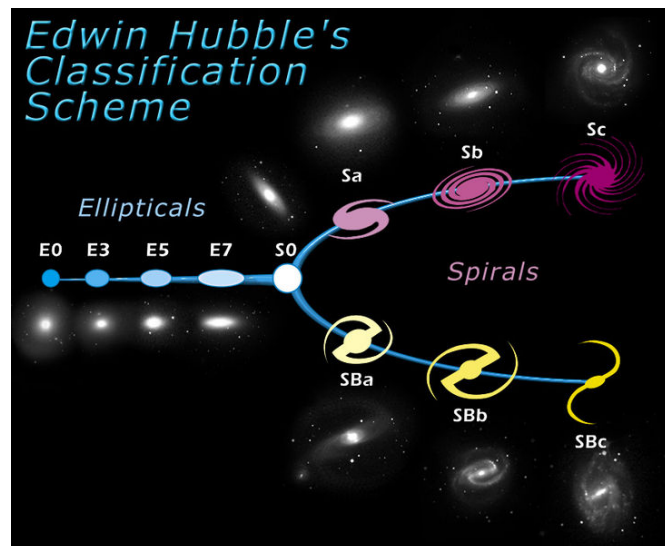


This section has been removed

On February 26, 1924, he married Grace Burke. The couple did not have any children.

Accomplishments

The most important contribution Hubble made was his observation that there are galaxies beyond our Milky Way. This led other scientists to eventually develop the Big Bang Theory. Hubble also created a standard classification system for galaxies known as the



NASA-created image of Edwin Hubble's tuning fork diagram

“tuning fork” diagram.

He also formulated Hubble’s Law, which states that the greater the relative distance between galaxies, the greater their relative speed of separation.

In 1990, NASA launched the Hubble Space Telescope into Earth orbit.

Notwithstanding his breakthrough contributions to the study of the universe, he was not awarded a Nobel Prize, partially because the Nobel committee considered astronomy to be a field of physics. He did not live to see those rules changed. As the Nobel Prize cannot be awarded posthumously, he never received the honor.

Despite delays (his father’s wish and his own military service) and the Nobel committee’s categorization of his field, Hubble was deeply driven by his passion for astronomy. He once said, “I knew that even if I were second or third rate, it was astronomy that mattered.” His dedication prevailed and he became a renowned astronomer, remembered for his contributions to this day.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. How did Hubble demonstrate his intellectual and athletic prowess in his youth?
2. Why
3. How
4. What were Hubble’s interests when he was a child?

Extension Questions

5. What
6. Why do you think NASA named the Hubble Space Telescope after Edwin Hubble?
7. If you were Edwin Hubble

Ecobottle Sample



This section has been removed

References

- “Biography of Edwin Powell Hubble.” (n.d.). *National Aeronautics and Space Administration*. Retrieved July 08, 2016 from http://asd.gsfc.nasa.gov/archive/hubble/overview/hubble_bio.html.
- “Edwin Powell Hubble - The man who discovered the cosmos.” (n.d.). *Hubble Space Telescope*. Retrieved July 08, 2016 from [https://www.spacetelescope.org/about/history/the man behind the name/](https://www.spacetelescope.org/about/history/the_man_behind_the_name/)
- Mayall, N. U. (1970). “Edwin Powell Hubble 1889-1953.” *National Academy of Sciences Biographical Memoirs*. Retrieved July 08, 2016 from <http://www.nasonline.org/publications/biographical-memoirs/memoir-pdfs/hubble-edwin.pdf>.
- Redd, N. (n.d.). “*Edwin Powell Hubble: Biography*.” Retrieved July 08, 2016 from <http://www.space.com/15665-edwin-powell-hubble.html>.