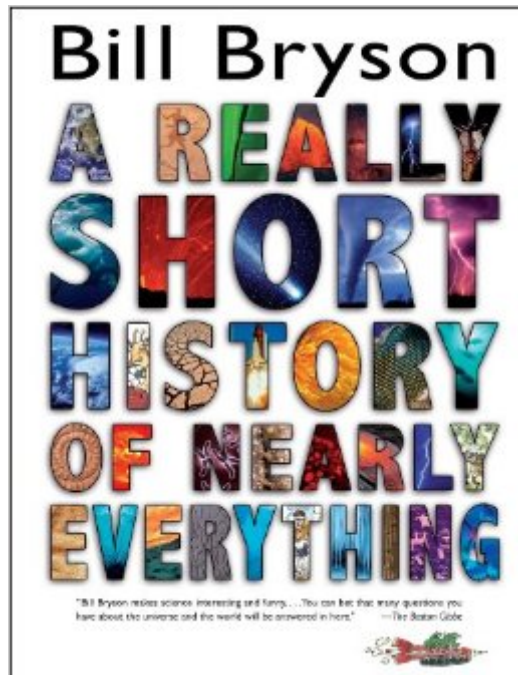


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# A Really Short History Of Nearly Everything



## Synopsis

Enter the world of science as Bill Bryson unmasks the mysteries of the universe. Did you know that: Every atom in your body has almost certainly passed through several stars and been part of millions of organisms on its way to being you? If you are an average-sized kid, you have enough potential energy inside you to explode with the force of several hydrogen bombs? And "What happened to dinosaurs? How big is the universe? Why are oceans salty? Is a meteor going to hit us? Tackling everything from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization, Bill Bryson's inimitable storytelling skill makes the why, how, and, just as importantly, the who of scientific discovery entertaining and accessible for young readers.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1190L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 169 pages

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Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.7 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (75 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #34,833 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Earth Sciences #641 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

For almost half of her 7.5 years, our daughter has gone to sleep as her mother delivers a lecture. Not the kind of lecture that follows bad behavior --- our kid just prefers facts to fiction. And so her mother gives a nightly discourse called "Bore Me to Sleep." Our child knows that no policeman can enter the apartment and take Daddy's computer without a warrant. She knows about the banking crisis (though she prefers to believe that some financial instruments are called "high-heeled munis" and "credit default flops") why the seasons change, how your digestive system works, what fashion designers do, how everything is made of the same atoms, the movement of a bill through the House

and Senate --- she's been exposed to a ton of random information. She could easily be Bill Bryson's child. Bryson got interested in how the world worked in the 4th or 5th grade, when an illustration in a textbook --- the Earth, with a wedge removed --- caught his interest. It would be nice to report that the book ignited lifelong learning. But it was a standard-issue textbook, not at all exciting. So it wasn't until he was a famous writer (author of a funny memoir called *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* and the even funnier *A Walk in the Woods*) that he wondered again how the world worked. A few years and 475 pages later, he produced *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. My wife devoted a summer to it and read every word. I flunked Science repeatedly in school; it's enough for me to know that some important event occurred 500 million years ago. Now he's created *A Really Short History of Nearly Everything*, and he's done me --- and you, and every curious kid burdened by a dull textbook or a brain-dead science teacher --- a huge favor.

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