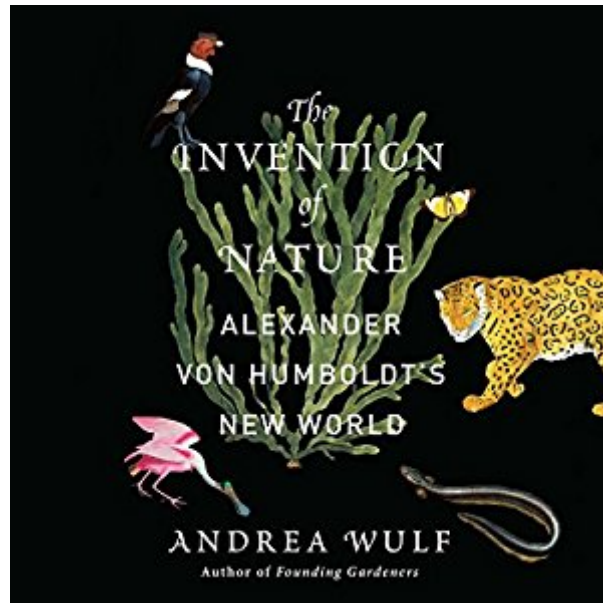


The book was found

# The Invention Of Nature: Alexander Von Humboldt's New World



## Synopsis

Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) was an intrepid explorer and the most famous scientist of his age. His restless life was packed with adventure and discovery, whether climbing the highest volcanoes in the world or racing through anthrax-infested Siberia. He came up with a radical vision of nature, that it was a complex and interconnected global force and did not exist for man's use alone. Ironically, his ideas have become so accepted and widespread that he has been nearly forgotten. Now Andrea Wulf brings the man and his achievements back into focus: his investigation of wild environments around the world; his discoveries of similarities between climate zones on different continents; his prediction of human-induced climate change; his remarkable ability to fashion poetic narrative out of scientific observation; and his relationships with iconic figures such as SimÃ¶n BolÃ¬var and Thomas Jefferson. Wulf examines how his writings inspired other naturalists and poets such as Wordsworth, Darwin, and Goethe, and she makes the compelling case that it was Humboldt's influence on John Muir that led him to his ideas of preservation and that shaped Thoreau's *Walden*. Humboldt was the most interdisciplinary of scientists and is the forgotten father of environmentalism. With this brilliantly researched and compellingly written audiobook, she makes clear the myriad, fundamental ways that Humboldt created our understanding of the natural world.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 14 hours and 3 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: HighBridge, a Division of Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: October 20, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B016V5CSGQ

Best Sellers Rank: #13 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics >

Environmentalists & Naturalists #22 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Nature #25

in Books > Science & Math > Environment > Environmentalism

## Customer Reviews

If you're like me, you had no idea who Alexander von Humboldt was prior to this surprisingly

well-received book. So why read a book about him? Well, youâ™ve surely heard of the people he influenced: e.g. Darwin, Thoreau, Jefferson, Bolivar, Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and John Muirâ”to name a few. Humboldt was one of the top scientists of his time, but his influence extended far beyond that aspect of his life. Much of the thrill of this book comes from Humboldtâ™s expeditions to Latin America and Russia. He faced alligators, electric eels, a capsized ship, and natural disasters. He also made Herculean efforts to arrange a Himalayan expedition, but politics and personalities intervened to delay him until he was too old to make the trip. (It should be noted that when Humboldt summited Mount Chimborazo in Ecuador in the early 1800â™s, it was believed to be the highest peak in the world [at 6268m, or 20,600ft.] Needless to say there was a lot unknown about the Himalaya at the timeâ”e.g. Everest is 8848m, or over 29,000ft.) While Humboldt produced specific breakthroughs and discoveries (e.g. inventing isotherms and discovering the magnetic equator), much of the inspiration he provided was in showing the interconnectedness of nature and the potential for unintended consequences. As a Prussian aristocrat, Humboldt was born into a position to have influence but it was his ideas and his personality that made him so sought after. He could be arrogant, but was humbled in the face of nature. He was charismatic, but did not suffer fools kindly. He was adamantly anti-slavery and strongly opposed efforts of religion to stymie science in order to delay the toppling of their sacred cows. The book is arranged into 23 chapters, divided among five parts.

Brilliant. At a time when we crave a new hero, one who braves the densest jungle, climbs the tallest mountains, and embodies the irrepressible desire to study and record everything he sees in the name of scientific advancement, we need look no further than the nearly-but-not-quite-forgotten Alexander von Humboldt. Move over Indiana Jones, here we find a real historical account of someone who took his pursuit of knowledge to a level of adventure that is unmatched. About the title: *The Invention of Nature*. What bombast! Surely, you exclaim, nature was not invented by anyone. The title refers to the role that Humboldt played in establishing the idea that nature is a web of life and the everything is intricately tied together - a theme that Wulf returns to at many points in the book. It could have been titled 'The Invention of Ecology' but because ecology is often popularly associated with saving a particular species here or there. The concept of 'environment' and 'ecology' are central to what Humboldt brought us, but at the time these ideas were so revolutionary, and his uttering of them had such a significant effect, that it was as if people -- all people everywhere -- were finally able to see nature for the first time. It was that big. I first heard his name in reference to Humboldt county, a largish county in northern California. Walking through central park

in New York, I came upon the statue of Humboldt, and figured he must have been some great guy to have monuments on both coasts! I never knew his story until reading this masterpiece from Andrea Wulf. By all means, get a copy and read it! Humboldt was a bright but unmotivated student born into a well connected family near Berlin.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Humboldt's Cosmos: Alexander von Humboldt and the Latin American Journey That Changed the Way We See the World  
The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World  
A Trinitarian Anthropology: Adrienne von Speyr and Hans Urs von Balthasar in Dialogue with Thomas Aquinas  
Madame Alexander 2010 Collector's Dolls Price Guide #35 (Madame Alexander Collector's Dolls Price Guide)  
Gottfried von Strassburg: Tristan (Landmarks of World Literature)  
The Process of Creating Life: Nature of Order, Book 2: An Essay on the Art of Building and the Nature of the Universe (The Nature of Order)(Flexible)  
The Nature of Alexander Jazz Dance and Jazz Gymnastics, Including Disco Dancing. Ed and Adapted by Liz Williamson. Tr from the German by Dale S. Cunningham. Tr of Von Der jaz Theo-Poetics: Hans Urs von Balthasar and the Risk of Art and Being  
Integrierte Informationssysteme in Handelsunternehmen auf der Basis von SAP-Systemen (SAP Kompetent) (German Edition)  
Katharina Von Bora: A Reformation Life  
Von Braun: Dreamer of Space, Engineer of War  
The Conductor's Gesture: A Practical Application of Rudolf Von Laban's Movement Language/G8096  
Pina Bausch: Fotografien Von Detlef Erler  
Das Lied von der Erde in Full Score (Dover Music Scores)  
Under the Guns of the Red Baron: The Complete Record of Von Richthofen's Victories and Victims in Graphic Detail  
Faithful Heart (The Von Wolfenberg Dynasty Book 3)  
The Money of Invention: How Venture Capital Creates New Wealth  
The Greek World After Alexander 323-30 BC (The Routledge History of the Ancient World)  
The Powerhouse: Inside the Invention of a Battery to Save the World

[Dmca](#)