

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910462557303321
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Titolo	Why science? [[electronic resource]] : to know, to understand, and to rely on results // Roger G. Newton
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Hackensack, N.J., : World Scientific, 2012
ISBN	1-281-60365-1 9786613784346 981-4397-34-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (101 p.)
Disciplina	507.1 509
Soggetti	Scientists Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Introduction; 1. We Want to Know; Looking at the Heavens; Exploratory Voyages; 2. We Want to Understand; Charles Darwin; Gregor Mendel; Louis Pasteur; Michael Faraday; Max Planck; Enrico Fermi; 3. Science; Chemistry as the Fundamental Science; How Physics Became Most Fundamental; On Reductionism; References and Further Reading; Illustration Credits; Index
Sommario/riassunto	This book aims to describe, for readers uneducated in science, the development of humanity's desire to know and understand the world around us through the various stages of its development to the present, when science is almost universally recognized - at least in the Western world - as the most reliable way of knowing. The book describes the history of the large-scale exploration of the surface of the earth by sea, beginning with the Vikings and the Chinese, and of the unknown interiors of the American and African continents by foot and horseback. After the invention of the telescope, visual