



Alexander von Humboldt

Alexander was not known for his intellect as a child. However, after he found his passion in the sciences, he was able to showcase his true abilities.

Von Humboldt was dedicated to satisfying his curiosity about the world. He spent his fortune financing his South and Central American expedition, from Caracas to the Andes.

Alexander was continuously observing and seeking to understand what he saw on his travels. He collected data on the causes of mountain sickness, new plants, weather patterns, human-induced climate change, geomagnetism, and more.

SCIENCE OUTREACH



Cosmos

He wrote his most famous book from 1845-1862. He took pains to make the book accessible, turning "scientific observation into poetic narrative"¹.

Royal Tutor

He eventually became the German royal tutor and worked to introduce his pupils to the importance of science



International Conferences

He benefitted greatly from the sharing of ideas and collaboration with fellow scientists. He eventually organized one of the first international scientific conferences.



Von Humboldt was never awarded an official degree. However, he was dedicated to the training of early career scientists. He funded the education of several scientists who eventually shaped their respective fields. His impact stretches much further than what he individually accomplished.

Sources

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Wulf, Andrea. The Invention of Nature: Alexander Von Humboldt's New World. New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 2015.