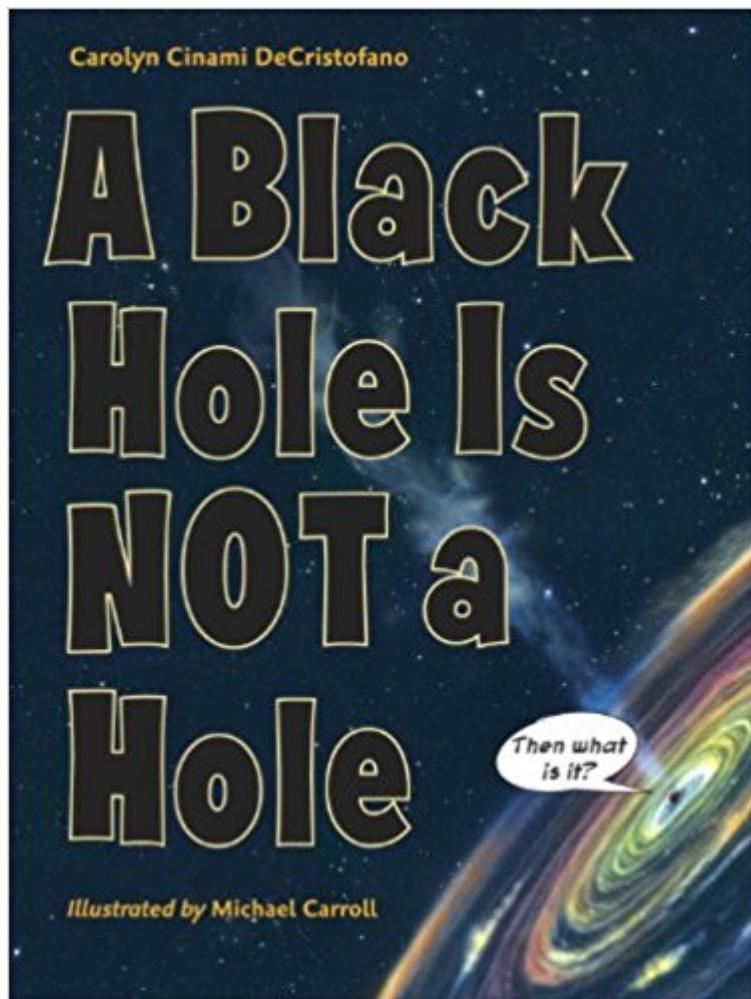


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# A Black Hole Is Not A Hole



## **Synopsis**

Get ready to S-T-R-E-T-C-H your mind! What is a black hole? Where do they come from? How were they discovered? Can we visit one? Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano takes readers on a ride through the galaxies (ours, and others), answering these questions and many more about the phenomenon known as a black hole. In lively and often humorous text, the book starts off with a thorough explanation of gravity and the role it plays in the formation of black holes. Paintings by Michael Carroll, coupled with real telescopic images, help readers visualize the facts and ideas presented in the text, such as how light bends, and what a supernova looks like. A BLACK HOLE IS NOT A HOLE is an excellent introduction to an extremely complex scientific concept. Back matter includes a timeline which sums up important findings discussed throughout, while the glossary and index provide a quick point of reference for readers. Children and adults alike will learn a ton of spacey facts in this far-out book that's sure to excite even the youngest of astrophiles.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 900L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 80 pages

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

This introduction to black holes takes readers from simple to complex by dropping definitions and information slowly and clearly into the lively narrative. Dramatic and amazing illustrations help to impart the sense of the vast distances in space, of how atomic nuclei meld in the intense interaction

called fusion, and how the areas of a black hole--the event boundary, the extreme gravity zone, and the singularity--are defined. The appended time line begins with Newton's work on gravity in 1687 and ends with the theoretical shining of a flashlight toward our galaxy's black hole (Sagittarius A\*, with a mass four million times that of our Sun) in 2012, which would take about 3600 years to reach its goal. The author's list of print resources credits classic science titles. Her website list cautions that the sites may not stay current, and she recommends using a search engine to get at the most up-to-date data. A four-page glossary provides succinct definitions and some pronunciation guides. The one-page index leads readers back to the text for many of the terms found in the glossary, e.g., "spaghettification," as well as for many of the scientists mentioned throughout. Informative, fun, and so beautiful that even general readers will be drawn into it. --School Library Journal, starred reviewWriting with rare verve ("A black hole is nothing to look at. Literally."), DeCristofano condenses recent astronomical discoveries into a high energy account of what we know or guess about one of the universe's deepest and most unobservable secrets. Covering the life cycle of stars; the formation of black holes and weird optical and physical effects associated with them; more recent revelations of super-sized black holes at the centers of galaxies; and the general effects of mass on space, light, and matter, she presents a clear, well-rounded picture of the strange structure and stranger physics of black holes. After leading a wild ride over a black hole's event horizon ("Right away, you would need a new nickname--something like Stretch . . .") and explaining theories about gravity from Newton's notions to "Einstein's Spacey Ideas," DeCristofano leaves readers to ponder the truth of her claim that a black hole isn't a hole--but "NOT exactly NOT a hole either." Enhanced by a time line and a generous set of further resources--and illustrated with plenty of cogent diagrams, space photographs, and Carroll's dramatic images of stellar whirlpools and mammoth jets of gas around cores of impenetrable blackness--this book will snatch readers from their orbits and fling them into a lasting fascination with nature's most attractive phenomena. Literally. --Booklist, starred reviewOh, my stars! As the cover proclaims, a black hole may not be an actual hole, but readers will be glad they fell into this book. The volume guides readers on a (literally) out-of-this-world tour, dealing with topics and concepts that, in the hands of a less-gifted writer, might have remained obscure and unclear. DeCristofano handles the material with wit, style and singularly admirable clarity, frequently employing easy-to-understand and, yes, down-to-earth ideas and scenarios to help make complex principles comprehensible to readers of all ages. Carroll's illustrations, diagrams and charts, along with superb telescopic photographs (many courtesy of NASA) are splendid and filled with the drama and excitement of the limitless vastness of space. The handsome design and visuals greatly enhance the text and add much to readers' grasp

of the subject. Stargazers will be entranced, and even those not especially attuned to matters celestial will come away feeling smarter, awestruck and with a sense of finally understanding this fascinating, other-worldly phenomenon. An excellent resource. Hole-y astronomy! --Kirkus Reviews, starred reviewWriting with rare verve ("A black hole is nothing to look at. Literally."), DeCristofano condenses recent astronomical discoveries into a high energy account of what we know or guess about one of the universe's deepest and most unobservable secrets. Covering the life cycle of stars; the formation of black holes and weird optical and physical effects associated with them; more recent revelations of super-sized black holes at the centers of galaxies; and the general effects of mass on space, light, and matter, she presents a clear, well-rounded picture of the strange structure and stranger physics of black holes. After leading a wild ride over a black hole's event horizon ("Right away, you would need a new nickname--something like Stretch . . .") and explaining theories about gravity from Newton's notions to "Einstein's Spacey Ideas," DeCristofano leaves readers to ponder the truth of her claim that a black hole isn't a hole--but "NOT exactly NOT a hole either." Enhanced by a time line and a generous set of further resources--and illustrated with plenty of cogent diagrams, space photographs, and Carroll's dramatic images of stellar whirlpools and mammoth jets of gas around cores of impenetrable blackness--this book will snatch readers from their orbits and fling them into a lasting fascination with nature's most attractive phenomena. Literally. --Booklist, starred reviewOh, my stars! As the cover proclaims, a black hole may not be an actual hole, but readers will be glad they fell into this book. The volume guides readers on a (literally) out-of-this-world tour, dealing with topics and concepts that, in the hands of a less-gifted writer, might have remained obscure and unclear. DeCristofano handles the material with wit, style and singularly admirable clarity, frequently employing easy-to-understand and, yes, down-to-earth ideas and scenarios to help make complex principles comprehensible to readers of all ages. Carroll's illustrations, diagrams and charts, along with superb telescopic photographs (many courtesy of NASA) are splendid and filled with the drama and excitement of the limitless vastness of space. The handsome design and visuals greatly enhance the text and add much to readers' grasp of the subject. Stargazers will be entranced, and even those not especially attuned to matters celestial will come away feeling smarter, awestruck and with a sense of finally understanding this fascinating, other-worldly phenomenon. An excellent resource. Hole-y astronomy! --Kirkus Reviews, starred review

Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano is the author of LEONARDO'S ABC, as well as the acclaimed nonfiction middle grade read, A BLACK HOLE IS NOT A HOLE. Aside from writing for children,

Carolyn is also science educator and principal consultant with Blue Heron STEM Education. She lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

This is just a top notch book. Not only is it highly informative, and not only does it make the whole concept of black holes incredibly clear and easy to understand, but the book is written with such voice that you can hardly put it down. This would be an excellent choice for a nonfiction read-aloud for students from third through eighth grades. Highly recommended.

Get ready for an entrancing ride! This is not a fantasy book where scientific understandings are "based predominately on the imagination" (Temple, Martinez, & Yokota, 2011, p. 278). It is a lively and humorous book that just so happens to also be a fun way to learn about gravity, and the role it plays in the formations of black holes. The pictures are amazing, and definitely stimulate the mind as they enhance the reader's knowledge. A clear understanding of the science is presented with the photographs and realistic illustrations. Along with pictures are included charts and graphs that make the book not only informational, but engaging as well. I feel the pictures helped reinforce the ideas of the text, allowing tough concepts to seem a little clearer. References: DeCristofano, C. C. (2012). *A black hole is not a hole*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge Publishing. Temple, C., Martinez, M., & Yokota, J. (2011). *Children's books in children's hands: An introduction to their literature*. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.

Good length for our 9-year old (who reads well). Filled with interesting facts, and provided hours of entertainment. Our daughter said she's read a lot of kids books on this topic, and this is her favorite, because its longer than the other books, and the facts are more interesting and unique.

What a fun book for smart kids and smart parents! The writing is brilliant and the kind of book that will be of interest to multiple age groups - My nine year old is fascinated by the text and content, and my three year old likes flipping through all the pictures. A beautiful hardback book that is a terrific addition to your child's library or as a gift.

The kid loves this book

I gave my 6 yr old grandson this book for Valentine's Day and he loved it. Arrived in timely manner and exactly as stated.

Great condition,

Granddaughter said oh, good book It's in the school library. I liked it personally, but she had already read it.

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