# The Remarkable Life Of Nanoscience Pioneer Mildred Dresselhaus

Mildred Dresselhaus was a groundbreaking scientist whose work revolutionized the field of nanoscience. Her pioneering research on carbon nanotubes and other nanomaterials laid the foundation for countless technological advancements, from lightweight and durable materials to advanced electronics and biomedical devices.



## Carbon Queen: The Remarkable Life of Nanoscience Pioneer Mildred Dresselhaus by Maia Weinstock

★★★★★ 4.3 out of 5
Language : English
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 318 pages



Dresselhaus was also a passionate advocate for women in science and engineering. She mentored countless students and colleagues, and her work to promote diversity and inclusion in STEM fields continues to inspire generations of scientists.

### **Early Life and Education**

Mildred Dresselhaus was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1930. Her father was a Russian immigrant who worked as a tailor, and her mother was a

homemaker. Dresselhaus showed an early interest in science and mathematics, and she excelled in her studies throughout her childhood.

After graduating from high school, Dresselhaus attended Hunter College, where she majored in physics. She went on to earn her master's degree and doctorate in physics from the University of Chicago.

#### **Scientific Career**

After completing her doctorate, Dresselhaus joined the faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She quickly established herself as a leading researcher in the field of solid-state physics.

In the early 1990s, Dresselhaus's research team made a groundbreaking discovery: they synthesized carbon nanotubes for the first time. Carbon nanotubes are tiny cylinders of carbon atoms that are just a few nanometers in diameter. Despite their small size, carbon nanotubes have remarkable properties, including high strength, low weight, and excellent electrical conductivity.

Dresselhaus's discovery of carbon nanotubes opened up a new era of research in nanoscience. Carbon nanotubes have since been used to develop a wide range of new technologies, including lightweight and durable materials, advanced electronics, and biomedical devices.

In addition to her work on carbon nanotubes, Dresselhaus also made significant contributions to the fields of superconductivity, thermoelectricity, and optics. She published over 1,000 scientific papers and held over 80 patents.

#### **Awards and Honors**

Mildred Dresselhaus received numerous awards and honors for her groundbreaking work in nanoscience. These include the:

- National Medal of Science
- Presidential Medal of Freedom
- Enrico Fermi Award
- Kavli Prize in Nanoscience

Dresselhaus was also a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Royal Society of London.

#### Legacy

Mildred Dresselhaus passed away in 2017 at the age of 86. She left behind a legacy of groundbreaking scientific research and passionate advocacy for women in science and engineering.

Dresselhaus's work on carbon nanotubes and other nanomaterials has had a profound impact on the field of nanoscience. Her discoveries have led to the development of countless new technologies, and her research continues to inspire generations of scientists.

Dresselhaus was also a passionate advocate for women in science and engineering. She mentored countless students and colleagues, and her work to promote diversity and inclusion in STEM fields continues to inspire generations of scientists.

Mildred Dresselhaus was a brilliant scientist, a dedicated mentor, and a tireless advocate for women in science and engineering. Her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

#### **Additional Resources**

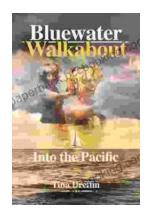
- AIP History Center biography of Mildred Dresselhaus
- NSF biography of Mildred Dresselhaus
- The Atlantic: Mildred Dresselhaus, the Woman Who Revolutionized
   Carbon Nanotubes



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