Joseph-Nicolas Delisle Encyclopedia Article

Joseph-Nicolas Delisle

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.

Contents

Joseph-Nicolas Delisle Encyclopedia Article....1

Contents....2

Joseph-Nicolas Delisle....3

Joseph-Nicolas Delisle

1688-1768

French astronomer best known for his efforts to determine the astronomical unit—the distance between the Sun and Earth—by observing transits of Venus across the Sun. The astronomical unit is crucial for determining the solar system size. Edmond Halley first proposed a method for determining this value from Venus transits. Delisle simplified Halley's method and produced a *mappemonde* indicating favorable observation sites for the 1761 and 1769 transits. He distributed the map and instructions through worldwide correspondence.