



# North Pole, South Pole: The Epic Quest to Solve the Great Mystery of Earth's Magnetism

*Gillian Turner*

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Why do compass needles point north—but not quite north? What guides the migration of birds, whales, and fish across the world's oceans? How is Earth able to sustain life under an onslaught of solar wind and cosmic radiation? For centuries, the world's great scientists have grappled with these questions, all rooted in the same phenomenon—Earth's magnetism.

Over 2,000 years after the invention of the compass, Einstein called the source of Earth's magnetic field one of greatest unsolved mysteries of physics. Here, for the first time, is the complete history of the quest to understand Earth's magnetism—from the ancient Greeks' fascination with lodestone, to the geological discovery that the North Pole has not always been in the North—and to the astonishing modern conclusions that finally revealed the true source.

Richly illustrated and skillfully told, *North Pole, South Pole* unfolds the human story behind the science: that of the inquisitive, persevering, and often dissenting thinkers who unlocked the secrets at our planet's core.

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