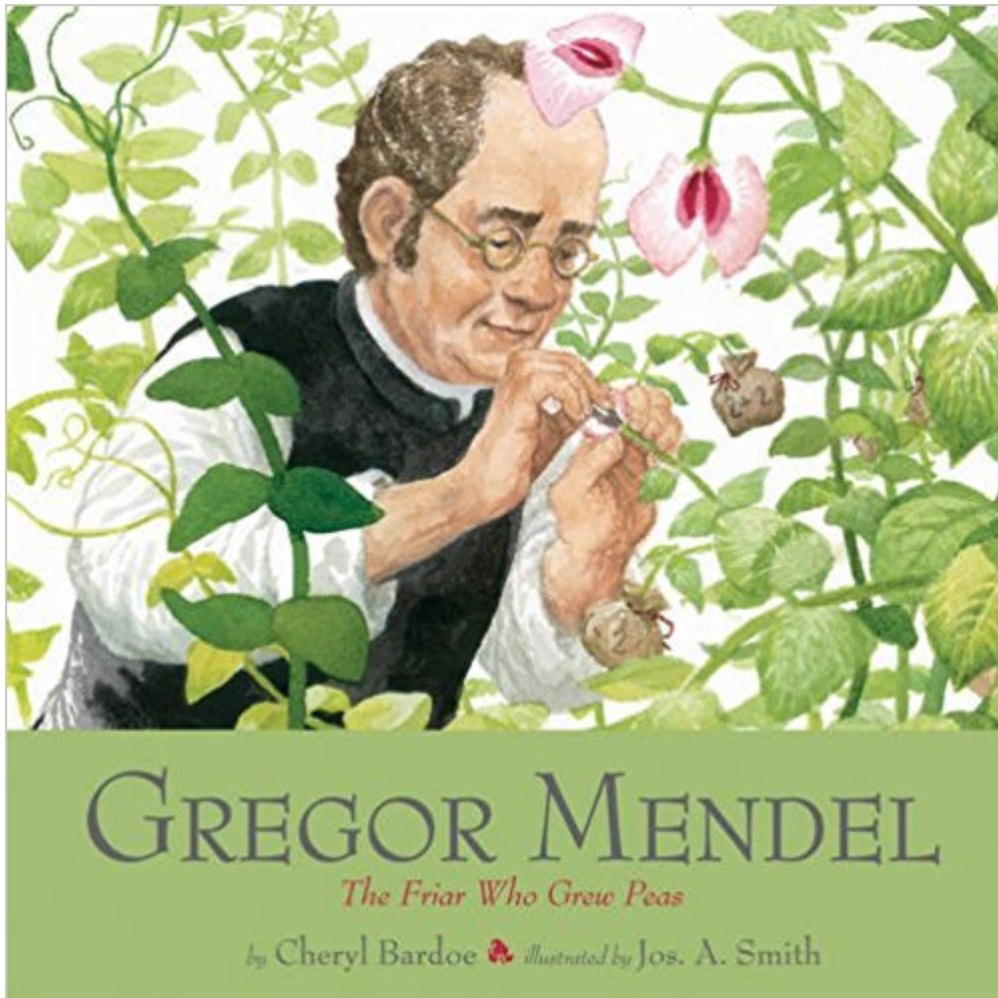




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# Gregor Mendel: The Friar Who Grew Peas



## Synopsis

Gregor Mendel explains to children the theory of heredity in simple-to-understand language and examples. Regarded as the world's first geneticist, Gregor Mendel discovered one of the fundamental aspects of genetic science: animals, plants, and people all inherit and pass down traits through the same process. Living the slow-paced, contemplative life of a friar, Gregor Mendel was able to conceive and put into practice his great experiment—observing yellow peas, green peas, smooth peas, and wrinkled peas to craft his theory—years before scientists had any notion of genes. Includes an author's note and bibliography. Awards for Gregor Mendel Orbis Pictus Honor Book ALA-ALSC Notable Book IRA Notable Book AAAS/Subaru SB&F Excellence in Science Book Finalist

## Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

Grade 3-6—An attractive picture-book biography, this slim, oversize volume is as much a treat for the eye as it is for the curious mind. Smith's crisp, realistic paintings, often flooded with the bright green of pea plants, accompany Barlow's readable text describing a scientist whose physical and educational needs led him to the religious life, but whose curiosity about inherited traits caused him to become the father of genetics. Bright diagrams clearly depict Mendel's famous plants, the internal arrangement of their seeds, and the results of carefully controlled experiments in

cross-breeding with certain traits firmly in mind. An extensive authors note presents further information. This eye-catching picture-book biography falls nicely into a field that already includes the complexities of Peter SÃfÃ- ss fascinating *The Tree of Life* (Farrar, 2003), Michael Doolings handsome *Young Thomas Edison* (Holiday House, 2005), James Cross Giblins eloquent *Thomas Jefferson* (Scholastic, 1994), and Diane Stanleys attractive *Leonardo da Vinci* (Morrow, 1996).Ãçâ -â œPatricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public Library, NY Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Gr. 2-4. Smith's watercolors give this biography of the first geneticist an appropriately bucolic feel, especially those that picture the dedicated, bespectacled Mendel in his gardens laboring over willowy pea plants. Other pictures follow Mendel from his studious, enterprising youth to his decision to become a friar, a profession that helped him "feed his body, mind, and soul" and enabled him, between teaching, preaching, and ministering to the sick, to pursue his desire to make a great discovery. That he was unable to convince nineteenth-century scientists that he did, indeed, discover a "universal law that would apply to all living things" brought an end to his scientific endeavors, though as Bardoe indicates, his discoveries, resurrected years after his death, have profoundly influenced our world. Easy-to-understand graphs show the results of Mendel's experiments, which, along with his theories, are clearly explained. Published in association with the Field Museum in Chicago, this visually pleasing book works as a fine source of introductory information on both the man and the science he pioneered. Stephanie ZvirinCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Brilliant illustrations and engaging text. My 7 year old used it for a biographical sketch and it tied in with her science lessons on traits. I think I would introduce this as young as 4, because the illustrations are sublime.

...read this to my 4th grade AIG enrichment students during our Genetics unit and they really enjoyed it. It kept their interest and added information to the mini-books they created on Mr. Mendel. As a teacher, I found this book very informative and engaging. Thanks! I learned some things myself.

Great book for my 7th grade science classes. Reading level is simple enough for my students to

grasp some of the complex topics. It provides a nice break from our textbook.

I read this book to my high school students. They don't love the book, but they do love story time and it has just enough science that you can read it as the intro OR as a concluding activity when everyone's brains are fried over genetics.

Used this as a fun opener to my 7th grade biology lesson on genetics...they love having a few minutes of storytime and it introduced the topic in a simple and understandable way!

I bought this as background material for my middle school General Science class. My own children (10, 12 and 16) loved the book. The illustrations are lovely, and it really is a great story of Mendel's interests, perseverance and discoveries.

Cheryl Bardoe explains basic genetics clearly in a charming story with beautiful illustrations.

Great book, explains Mendel's life and contributions in a simple but not dumbed-down way. Makes my 7 year old want to study genetics!

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