

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

# SCIENCE NEWS

August 30, 1997  
Vol. 152, No. 9  
Pages 129-144

## Mummy Medicine



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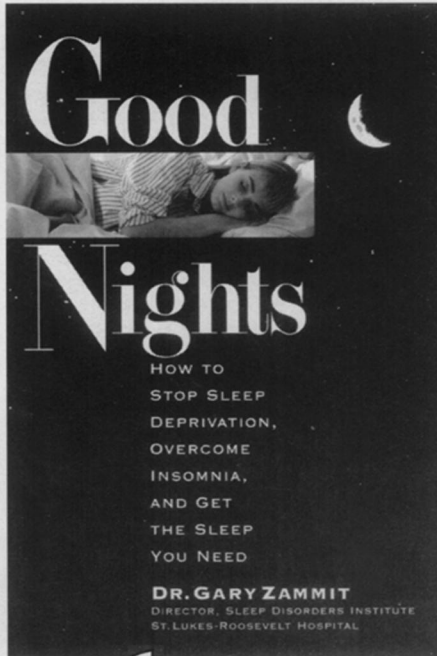
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- How to help your baby sleep through the night
- When to see a sleep specialist

—from Andrews McMeel

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Andrews McMeel  
1997, 242 pages  
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hardcover, \$22.95

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The Big Bang theory is great at describing what happened after the bang. Yet until recently, particle physicists and cosmologists were stuck on many questions that the Big Bang theory couldn't answer, including: What made the Big Bang BANG in the first place? If matter can be neither created nor destroyed, how could so much matter arise from nothing at all? Why can we see only a minute part of the mega-universe?

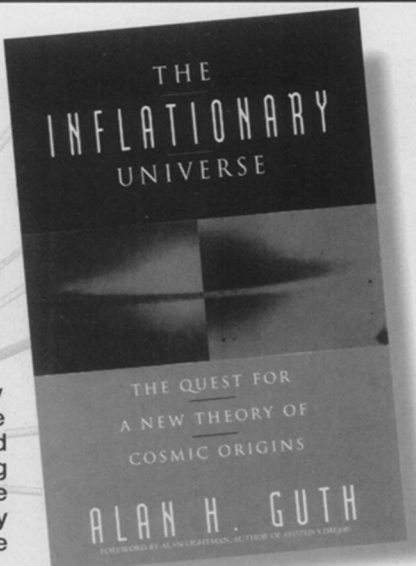
In 1979, a young particle physicist named Alan Guth answered these questions and made front-page news with one of the greatest discoveries in modern cosmology: cosmic inflation. This is the compelling, first-hand account of Guth's paradigm-breaking discovery of the origins of the universe.

Although many of his scientific peers immediately sought to disprove the inflation theory, Guth captured the attention of such noted figures as Stephen Hawking and Andrei D. Linde and spent his time researching and refining his ideas. It wasn't until 1992, however, when the space probe COBE brought stunning confirmation of the validity of inflation, that Guth's theory was widely regarded as one of the most important contributions to science during the 20th century.

Guth's startling theory states that in the billion-trillion-trillionth of a second before the Big Bang, there was a period of hyper-rapid inflation that got the bang started. Inflation modifies our picture of only the first small fraction of a second in the history of the universe, and then it joins the standard Big Bang theory, preserving all of the successes of the older theory. But because inflation explains the bang itself, it is a much richer theory than the older version.

*The Inflationary Universe* is the passionate account of one leading scientist's effort to look behind the cosmic veil and explain how the universe began.

—from Addison Wesley



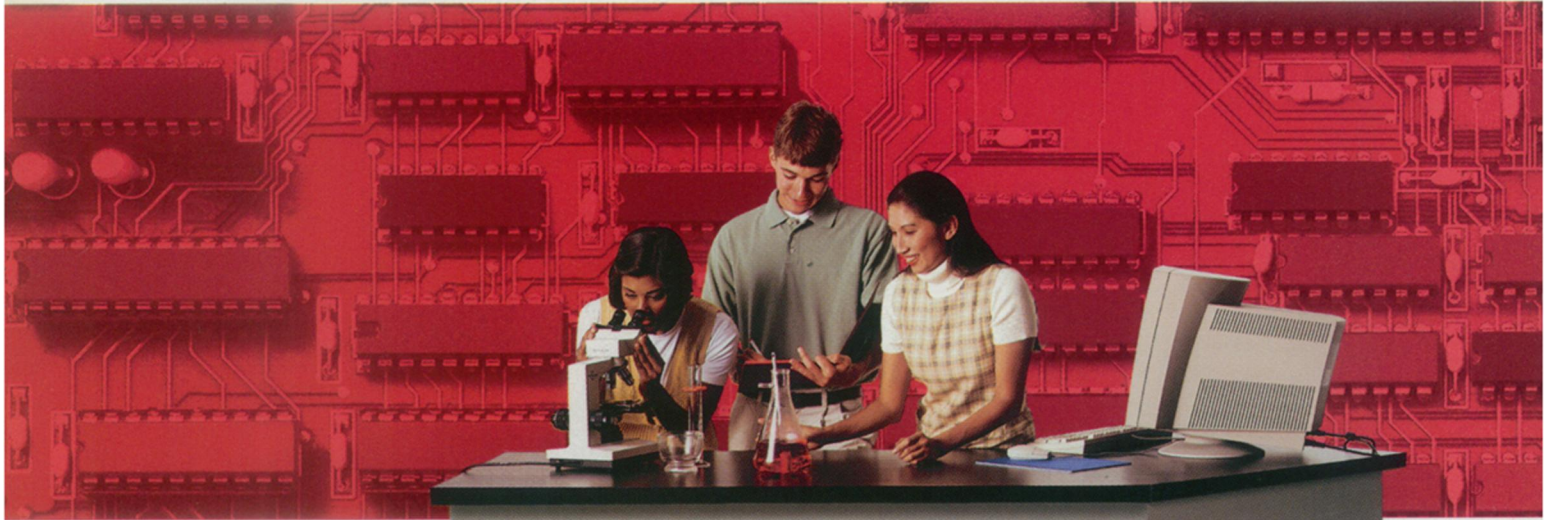
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