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Web Search **Best Books of 2005****Top 10 Editors' Picks: Science**

*[Collapse](#)*, Jared Diamond's sprawling and compelling look at the lessons we can learn from human societies that suddenly disappeared from history--and those that didn't--was one of the first big books of the new year, and we kept thinking about it all through 2005. It's our choice for the top book on our list of the year's best in Science. See more editors' picks and customers' favorites in our

[Best of 2005 Store.](#)

1.  **[Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed](#)** **Avg. Customer Review:** ★★★★★

by Jared Diamond

Usually ships in 24 hours

List Price: ~~\$20.95~~  
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Viking Adult  
Hardcover - 592 pages  
(December 29, 2004)

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**Amazon.com**

Jared Diamond's *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* is the glass-half-empty follow-up to his Pulitzer Prize-winning *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. While *Guns, Germs, and Steel* explained the geographic and environmental reasons why some human populations have flourished, *Collapse* uses the same... [Read more](#)

2.  **[Incompleteness: The Proof and Paradox of Kurt Gödel \(Great Discoveries\)](#)** **Avg. Customer Review:** ★★★★★

by Rebecca Goldstein

Usually ships in 24 hours

List Price: ~~\$22.95~~  
Price: **\$15.61**  
You Save: \$7.34 (32%)

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W. W. Norton & Company  
Hardcover - 296 pages  
(February 2005)

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**Amazon.com**

Kurt Gödel is often held up as an intellectual revolutionary whose incompleteness theorem helped tear down the notion that there was anything certain about the universe. Philosophy professor, novelist, and MacArthur Fellow Rebecca Goldstein reinterprets the evidence and restores to Gödel's... [Read more](#)

3. **[Infrastructure: A Field Guide to the Industrial Landscape](#)** **Avg. Customer Review:** ★★★★★

by Brian Hayes

Usually ships in 24 hours

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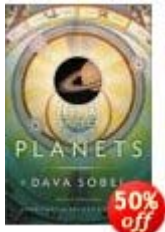


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W. W. Norton  
Hardcover - 512 pages

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### From Publishers Weekly




Starred Review. Renowned inventor Kurzweil (The Age of Spiritual Machines) may be technology's most credibly hyperbolic optimist. Elsewhere he has argued that eliminating fat intake can prevent cancer; here, his quarry is the future of consciousness and intelligence. Humankind, it runs, is at the... [Read more](#)

7.  **The Planets**  
by Dava Sobel
- Usually ships in 24 hours  
Viking Adult  
Hardcover - 288 pages  
(October 11, 2005)
- List Price: ~~\$24.95~~  
Price: **\$12.47**  
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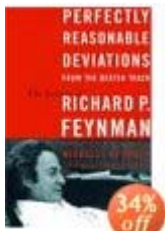


Starred Review. Sobel's purpose in this lovely and personal volume is to show us the planets as she sees them. Writing in quite a different mode than in her best-selling Longitude and Galileo's Daughter, Sobel offers intimate essays inspired by the planets in our solar system, which she describes... [Read more](#)

8.  **Warped Passages : Unraveling the Mysteries of the Universe's Hidden Dimensions**  
by Lisa Randall
- Usually ships in 24 hours  
Ecco  
Hardcover - 512 pages  
(August 30, 2005)
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9.  **Perfectly Reasonable Deviations From The Beaten Track: The Letters Of Richard P. Feynman**  
by Timothy Ferris (Foreword), et al
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Basic Books  
Hardcover - 486 pages  
(April 5, 2005)
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10. **The Genius Factory: The Curious** **Avg. Customer Review:**  
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