

James D. Watson

Quotes

*Science, People, Thinking, Play, Years, Mind, Discovery, Brain, Father,
Scientist, Lonely, Wings, Dark, Hands, Dream, Knowing, Atheism, Believe,
Religious, Giving*

Today, the theory of evolution is an accepted fact for everyone but a fundamentalist minority, whose objections are based not on reasoning but on doctrinaire adherence to religious principles.

~James D. Watson

Science moves with the spirit of an adventure characterized both by youthful arrogance and by the belief that the truth, once found, would be simple as well as pretty.

~James D. Watson

Knowing "why" (an idea) is more important than learning "what" (the fact).

~James D. Watson

It's necessary to be slightly underemployed if you are to do something significant.

~James D. Watson

No one may have the guts to say this, but if we could make better human beings by knowing how to add genes, why shouldn't we?

~James D. Watson

We're not all equal, it's simply not true. That isn't science.

~James D. Watson

Whenever you interview fat people, you feel bad, because you know you're not going to hire them.

~James D. Watson

Our goal should be to understand our differences.

~James D. Watson

The way to do great science is to stay away from subjects that are overpopulated, and go to the frontiers.

~James D. Watson

Never be the brightest person in the room.

~James D. Watson

At lunch Francis [Crick] winged into the Eagle to tell everyone within hearing distance that we had found the secret of life.

~James D. Watson

A clone of Einstein wouldn't be stupid, but he wouldn't necessarily be any genius, either.

~James D. Watson

Do things as soon as you can. If a decision needs to be made, make it. It gives you more time to change your mind.

~James D. Watson

I never dreamed that in my lifetime my own genome would be sequenced.

~James D. Watson

A goodly number of scientists are not only narrow-minded and dull, but also just stupid.

~James D. Watson

Science that leads over the horizon depends on gathering the best minds and enabling them to do what the best minds naturally seek to do: pursue the most thrilling questions of the time.

~James D. Watson

Science has always been my preoccupation and when you think a breakthrough is possible, it is terribly exciting.

~James D. Watson

For all my life, America was the place to be. And we somehow continue to be the place where there are real opportunities to change the world for the better.

~James D. Watson

There is only one science, physics: everything else is social work.

~James D. Watson

I don't think we are here for anything. We're just products of evolution. You can say, "Gee, your life must be pretty bleak if you don't think there's a purpose." But I'm anticipating a good lunch.

~James D. Watson

DNA was my only gold rush. I regarded DNA as worth a gold rush.

~James D. Watson

If scientists don't play God, who will?

~James D. Watson

Biology has at least 50 more interesting years.

~James D. Watson

Already for thirty-five years he had not stopped talking and almost nothing of fundamental value had emerged.

~James D. Watson

Nothing new that is really interesting comes without collaboration

~James D. Watson

I think the reason people are dealing with science less well now than 50 years ago is that it has become so complicated.

~James D. Watson

Take young researchers, put them together in virtual seclusion, give

them an unprecedented degree of freedom and turn up the pressure by fostering competitiveness.

~James D. Watson

The biggest advantage to believing in God is you don't have to understand anything, no physics, no biology. I wanted to understand.

~James D. Watson

If we don't play God, who will?

~James D. Watson

I wanted to see if I could write a good book.

~James D. Watson

The brain, is the most complex thing we have yet discovered in our universe.

~James D. Watson

My heroes were never scientists. They were Graham Greene and Christopher Isherwood, you know, good writers.

~James D. Watson

One of the greatest gifts science has brought to the world is continuing elimination of the supernatural.

~James D. Watson

People say it would be terrible if we made all girls pretty. I think it would be great.

~James D. Watson

Racists have often used pseudoscience to justify their socially damaging views; watch these films to see how science, by replacing ignorance with knowledge, can undo that damage.

~James D. Watson

The luckiest thing that ever happened to me was that my father didn't believe in God, and so he had no hang-ups about souls.

~James D. Watson

[As a young man] I came to the conclusion that the church was just a bunch of fascists that supported Franco. I stopped going on Sunday mornings and watched the birds with my father instead.

~James D. Watson

If I had been married earlier in life, I wouldn't have seen the double helix. I would have been taking care of the kids on Saturday. On the other hand, I was lonely a lot of the time.

~James D. Watson

I wish there would be more movies about scientists.

~James D. Watson

No good model ever accounted for all the facts, since some data was bound to be misleading if not plain wrong.

~James D. Watson

As an educator, I have always striven to see that the fruits of the American Dream are available to all.

~James D. Watson

I have been much blessed.

~James D. Watson

There are many people of color who are very talented.

~James D. Watson

Some think there is something wrong about enhancing people.

~James D. Watson

If you succeed with your first dream, it helps. You know, people trust you, possibly, for the second one. They give you a chance to play out your second one.

~James D. Watson

You've never heard of an English lover. Only an English patient.

~James D. Watson

The American public is being sold a very nasty bill of goods about cancer.

~James D. Watson

I am thrilled to see my genome.

~James D. Watson

(The National Cancer Program is) a bunch of (obscenity).

~James D. Watson

The pace of discovery is going unbelievably fast.

~James D. Watson

Ultimately, we'll help the people we discriminate against if we try to understand more about them; genetics will lead to a world where there is a sympathy for the underdog.

~James D. Watson

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