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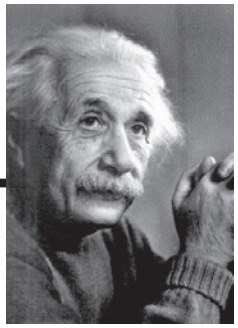
# Albert Einstein



**Eureka!**

Need a little help cracking this code? Pay special attention to the math symbols found throughout the article. Your answers will be found in their correct order.

"Imagination is more important than knowledge." This quote by Albert Einstein seems to be the opposite of what you'd think a scientist would say. But in reality, some of the greatest discoveries in history have been the result of a creative imagination (and sometimes even a bit of good luck).

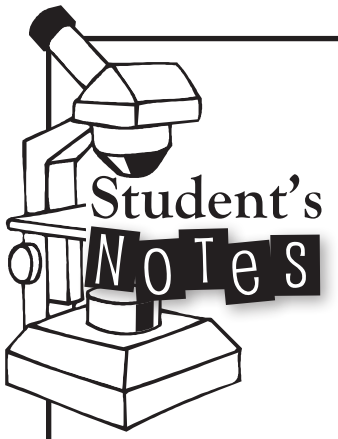
Albert Einstein was born March 14, 1879, in Ulm, Germany. At the age of 5 he was given a compass as a gift, and he became very interested in the forces that made it work. As a young man, he attended several schools in Germany and Switzerland to study these forces in the field of science called physics. However, Albert wasn't very good in school—he preferred to study the subjects he liked on his own time. He even had a teacher once tell him that he would never amount to anything in life.

After he graduated, Albert wrote many papers on physics and mathematics. He created ideas, called *theories*, about the movement of objects so small that they could not even be seen under normal microscopes. Albert's theories caused many arguments at first, but once other scientists started testing these theories, Albert was proven to be correct. One of the most famous theories involving the speed of light is Einstein's Theory of Relativity, which includes the well-known equation, $E=mc^2$. In 1916, he published a paper about gravity, which was once again proven to be true by other scientists. Albert Einstein became world-famous nearly overnight. In 1921, he won a Nobel Prize in physics for his hard work.

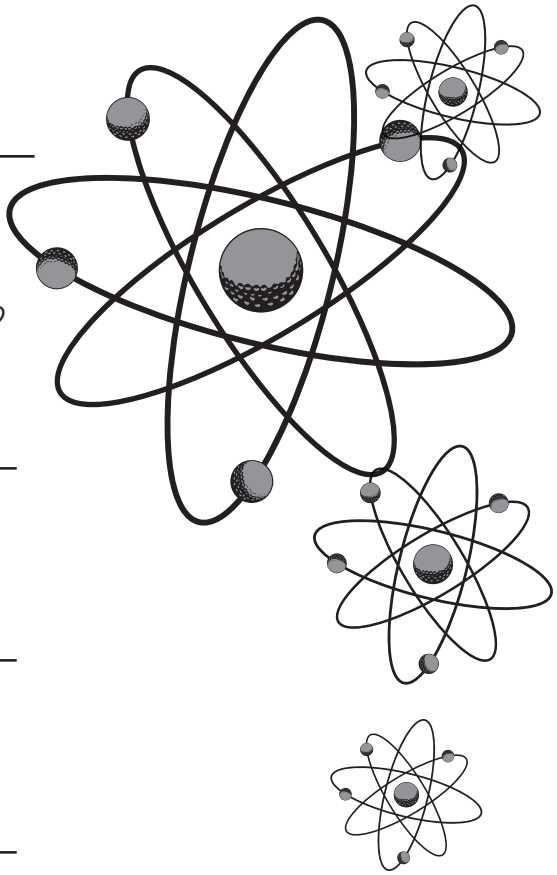
All of Albert's research was done using mathematical equations. He did not run tests in a laboratory or perform experiments. Albert was a *theoretical physicist*, or a scientist that uses math to explain nature. However, scientists that followed in Albert's shoes ran many different kinds of tests and experiments to prove his work.

Albert worked as a teacher for much of his life. He served as Director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physics in Berlin, Germany, until he was invited to teach at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, New Jersey, in 1933. While in the United States, Albert devoted much of his time to developing new theories. Some of his ideas included the existence of black holes in space, the creation of the universe, and the possibility of time travel. He worked on these ideas until his death in 1955.

Albert Einstein is often considered the most famous scientist of the 20th century. He spent his life trying to solve some of the biggest mysteries of our world, and his work opened the door for future scientists. While knowledge is a very important part of learning, it was Albert's imagination that led him to make many of his discoveries. He is proof that "thinking outside the box" can indeed be a great thing.



# Questions:



1. What gift was given to Albert that sparked his interest in physics?

_____

2. What musical instrument did Albert learn to play by age 6?

_____

3. Which chemical element is named after Albert?

_____

4. How old was Albert when he wrote his first scientific paper?

_____

5. Albert was not present at his Nobel Prize ceremony. Where was he?

_____

6. What clothing did Albert not like to wear?

_____