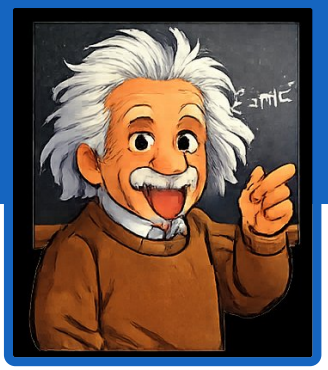
Albert Einstein

Physicist — Theory of Relativity



Name: _____

Date: _____

Born:
March 14, 1879
Ulm, Germany

BIOGRAPHY

Albert Einstein is widely regarded as the greatest scientist of the 20th century. Born in Ulm, Germany, he showed a deep curiosity about the natural world from childhood. As a young boy, he wondered what it would look like to ride alongside a beam of light — a question that would eventually change science forever.

In 1905, Einstein published four groundbreaking papers that transformed physics. His Special Theory of Relativity introduced the famous equation $E=mc^2$, showing that energy and mass are two forms of the same thing. This discovery later helped scientists understand nuclear energy.

In 1915, he published the General Theory of Relativity, which explained gravity as a curvature of space and time. This theory predicted that light bends around massive objects — and this was confirmed during a solar eclipse in 1919, making Einstein world-famous overnight.

Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921. When the Nazis rose to power in Germany, Einstein — who was Jewish — emigrated to the United States and joined Princeton University, where he worked until his death in 1955.

Beyond physics, Einstein cared deeply about peace, civil rights, and education. He spoke out against racism and war. His curiosity, imagination, and humility continue to inspire scientists and students around the world.

THINK ABOUT IT

1. **What does Einstein's equation $E=mc^2$ mean, and why was it important?**

2. **What is the General Theory of Relativity, and how was it proven correct?**

3. **How did Einstein contribute to the world beyond his scientific discoveries?**

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