

All About Sir Isaac Newton



Sir Isaac Newton

Sir Isaac Newton made some of the world's most important scientific discoveries. Here are some facts about his early life.

- Sir Isaac Newton was born on 4th January 1643... or was he? The calendar we use to set dates has changed since Newton's birth. We use a dating system called the Gregorian calendar, but when Newton was born, the Julien calendar was used. In the Julien calendar, Sir Isaac Newton's date of birth was Christmas Day, 1642!
- He was born prematurely (too early) and wasn't expected to survive.
- While at school, Newton loved studying chemistry. However, when he was 12 years old, his mother made him leave school to help run the family farm. Newton was miserable and hated farming. Eventually, his uncle convinced Newton's mother to allow him to attend university.
- Newton studied at Trinity College, Cambridge.

The Apple Tree

Legend has it that Sir Isaac Newton made one of his most important discoveries when an apple fell from the tree he was sitting under and hit him on the head. This story isn't quite true, but a falling apple did lead to one of Newton's discoveries. Newton observed an apple falling from a tree and it got him thinking.

Newton discovered that Earth must have a force which pulls things down instead of letting things float upwards. We call this force gravity. Newton discovered that gravity attracts all objects towards each other. The bigger an object, the more gravity it would have. He developed this theory to work out that gravity kept the moon in orbit around Earth.



Honours for Newton

Newton made many other scientific discoveries. As well as his scientific career, Newton also held several important positions

When he died in 1727, Newton was buried in Westminster Abbey. Other people buried in the Abbey include Henry VII, Elizabeth I, Charles Dickens and Charles Darwin.

In 2017, the Royal Mint released a special 50 pence coin in honour of Sir Isaac Newton.

