

Isaac Newton

Today we will be...

Finding out how Isaac Newton interacted with other people, and why this is important.



One of these sentences about Isaac Newton is not true. Can you spot which one is false?

- ♣ He was born on Christmas Day 1642.
- ♣ His mother wanted him to be a scientist.
- ♣ He went to Cambridge University.
- ♣ He discovered gravity.
- ♣ He invented the reflecting telescope.

♣ His mother wanted him to be a scientist.

This is the sentence that was FALSE. His mother wanted him to be a farmer and run the family farm.



These sentences are all TRUE.



- ♣ He was born on Christmas Day 1642.
- ♣ He went to Cambridge University.
- ♣ He discovered gravity.
- ♣ He invented the reflecting telescope.



What can you remember
about Isaac's childhood?

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What was difficult about Isaac's childhood?

- *His father died before he was born.
- *His mother abandoned him to live with her new husband when he was just 4 years old.
- *His mother nearly didn't allow him to go to university.

All this might explain why Isaac found it very difficult to get on with other people and why he found it hard to make friends.





What effect do you
think his childhood
would have on
Isaac's life?



How important do
you think friends
are?

 **BACK**

NEXT 



Let's find out about
some of the people in
Isaac's life and
whether he got on
with them or not...

John Wickins

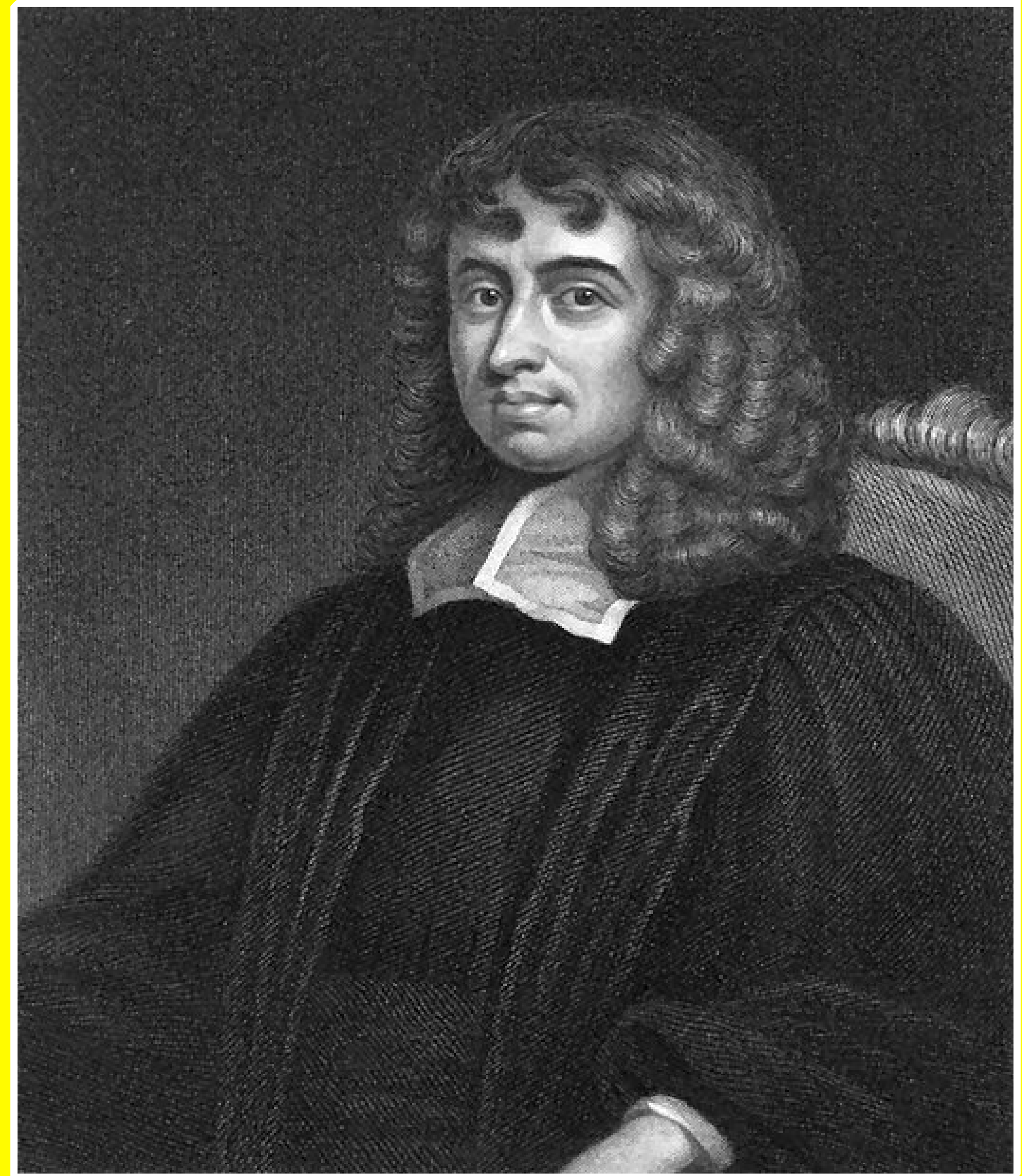
One of Isaac's closest friends was John Wickins. They met in Isaac's 3rd year at university. They shared a house for the next 20 years.



John helped Isaac set up his experiments. He also made sure that Isaac remembered to eat and sleep when he was busy with work.

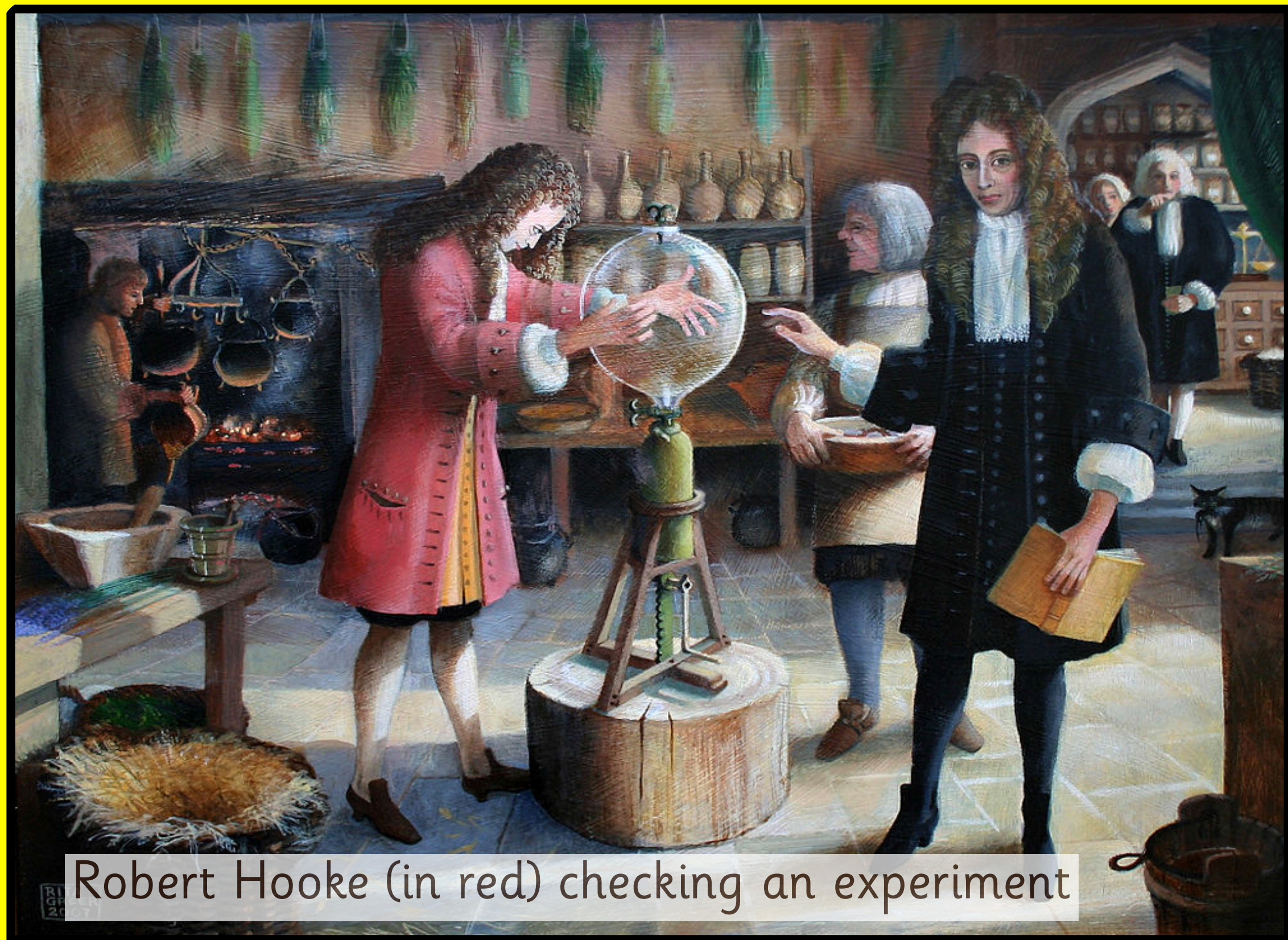
Isaac Barrow

Professor Barrow was Isaac's boss when he finished his degree. He was impressed with his work so made him his assistant. When Barrow left, he said Isaac Newton should become the new professor. He also told the Royal Society about Isaac's reflecting telescope.



Robert Hooke

Robert Hooke was a bit older than Isaac Newton. He was in charge of checking all the new experiments at the Royal Society. He decided that Isaac's ideas did not work.

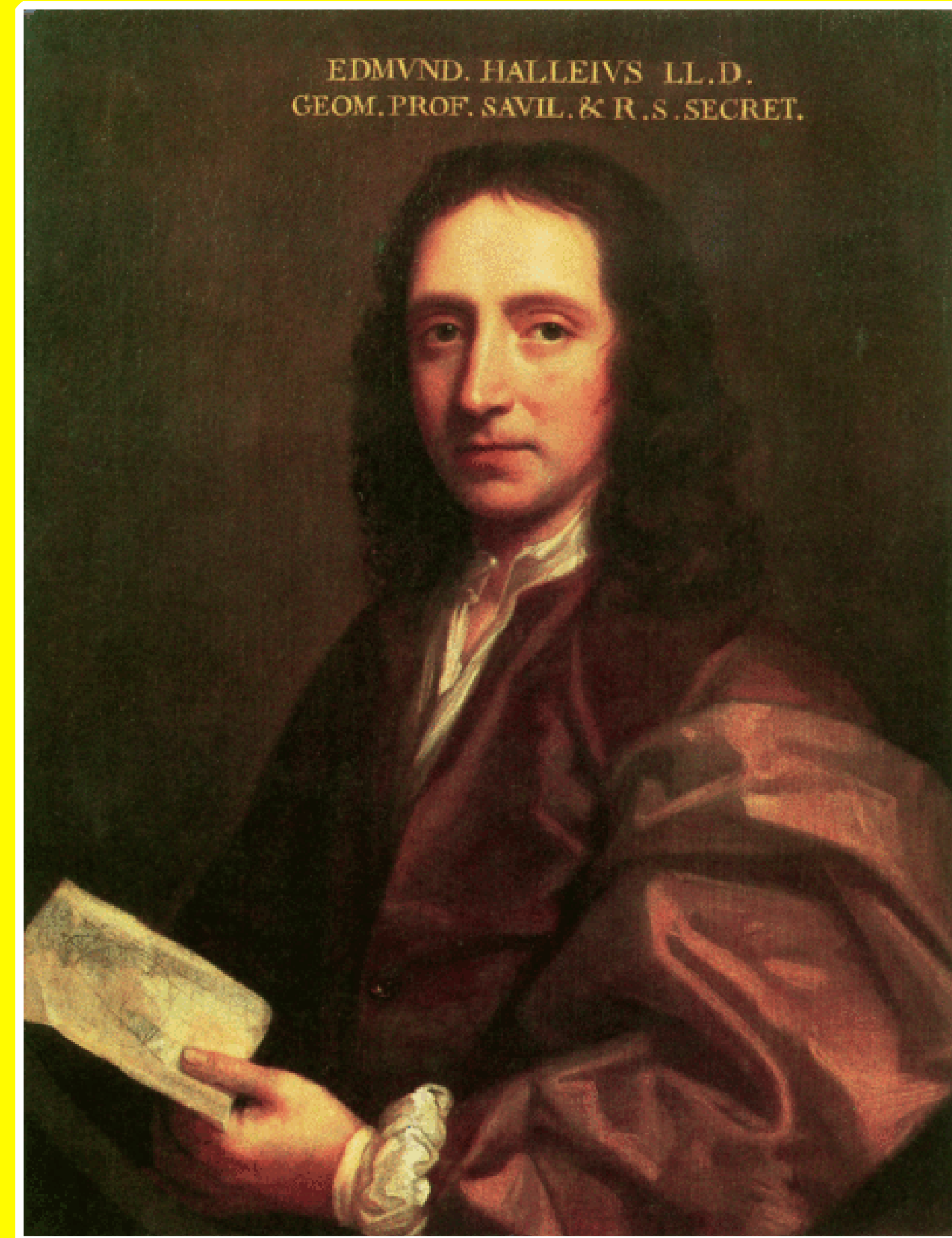


He also claimed he invented the reflecting telescope before Isaac did, but he had no evidence to prove this. Isaac didn't like Robert very much.

Edmund Halley

Edmund was an astronomer, someone who looked at the stars and planets. Halley's comet is named after him because he was the first to work out how often it would fly past Earth.

He went to see Isaac at Cambridge to ask him about the movement of the moon. He was surprised to find out that Isaac had worked gravity out many years before but never published anything. Edmund persuaded Isaac to write a book about it, and even paid for the book to be published.



Gottfried Leibniz

Gottfried was a German scientist. He published his method of doing calculus in 1684. Isaac had worked it out before this but he had never published his work.



He thought that Gottfried had stolen his ideas and was trying to say he came up with them first. Isaac said he first invented calculus in 1666, whereas Gottfried said he started in 1675.



What made Isaac fall out with some other scientists?

Can you remember the name of any of Isaac's friends?