

## Sir Isaac Newton

Isaac Newton was born on January the 4<sup>th</sup>, 1643, though if you used the calendar at the time, that would tell you he was actually born on Christmas day, 1642!

He became famous for his work on gravity and his 3 laws of motion (which you will learn more about in GCSE Physics). He is also well known for his work on light and colour, and a branch of mathematics called calculus.

The famous story about the apple falling from the tree helps to show how Newton's work was inspired by observing the world around him, though it is probably not true that the apple hit him on the head.

### Top 10 facts:

1. Isaac Newton was a premature baby – this means he was born early - and he wasn't expected to survive. He actually lived until he was 85.
2. Newton was expelled from school when he was 12 for fighting with another student.
3. His mother wanted him to be a farmer, but Isaac hated farming.
4. He had a childhood hobby of building sundials and windmills.
5. When he was 19 he went to Cambridge University – he was too poor to pay the fees, so worked part time as a servant for the other students.
6. He was so good at maths that by the age of 27, the University made him a Professor (an expert teacher at the university).
7. Newton worked as an MP for a year – the only words recorded from him in the houses of parliament is a request for someone to close a window because he was cold.
8. Isaac Newton invented the reflecting telescope, versions of which are used today to help us understand the universe.
9. Newton was known as a grumpy man who loved arguing with people.
10. When he died peacefully in his sleep, they found traces of mercury in his hair from some of his experiments. Mercury is poisonous, and could be one of the reasons he acted a bit crazy in his later life.

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