

## READING

### Isaac Newton

Sir Isaac Newton was a famous English physicist and mathematician. He is considered one of the greatest scientists of all time.

Isaac Newton was born on January 4, 1643, in Woolsthorpe, England. He was the only son of a prosperous local farmer who died three months before Isaac was born. When Newton was three years old, his mother married again, leaving young Isaac with his grandmother. At age twelve, Newton was reunited with his mother after her second husband died. She wanted him to be a farmer, but he didn't like it. With the help of his uncle, he started studying at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was a little older than the other students.

At Cambridge, Newton became fascinated with science. When the university was closed in 1665 because of an epidemic of plague, he returned home and continued his studies privately. During this time, he made many of his famous discoveries. It is said that Newton experienced his famous inspiration of gravity with the falling apple at this time.

Newton finished his studies before he was twenty-seven. He went on to become a professor and published some important work on optics. The work was criticized by Robert Hooke, a scientist and a member of the Royal Academy of Science. Newton reacted to the criticism badly and he and Hooke became rivals. In 1678, Newton had a nervous breakdown. His mother died the following year and he retired from public life for six years. During this time, he studied gravity and planetary motion.

In 1687, Newton published his *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (*Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*). It is one of the most important books about physics and science of all time. The work made Newton famous and he became interested in public life again. In 1689, he was elected to represent Cambridge in Parliament. He had another nervous breakdown, but he recovered quickly. He started studying alchemy and the Bible.

Towards the end of his life, Newton was one of the most famous people in Europe. He became very rich and he gave some of his money to charity. However, his life wasn't perfect. He never married, didn't have many friends and some people around him feared for his mental health.

Isaac Newton died on March 31, 1727, at the age of 84.

#### 1 Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1 How many brothers did Isaac Newton have? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What was Newton interested in when he was at university? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What did Newton do when Cambridge was closed? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 How old was Newton when he finished his studies? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Who was Newton's rival? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 When did Newton's mother die? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 What was Newton's most famous book? \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Isaac Newton's father was a farmer. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Isaac Newton studied at Cambridge. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Isaac Newton was a little younger than other students. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Isaac Newton studied optics. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Isaac Newton took part in politics. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Isaac Newton gave some of his money to other people. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Isaac Newton didn't have a wife. \_\_\_\_\_

## KEY

### 1 Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1 How many brothers did Isaac Newton have? **he didn't have any brothers**
- 2 What was Newton interested in when he was at university? **he was interested in science**
- 3 What did Newton do when Cambridge was closed? **he returned home and continued studying privately**
- 4 How old was Newton when he finished his studies? **he was twenty-seven years old**
- 5 Who was Newton's rival? **Robert Hooke**
- 6 When did Newton's mother die? **in 1679**
- 7 What was Newton's most famous book? ***Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica (Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy)***

### 2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Isaac Newton's father was a farmer. **T**
- 2 Isaac Newton studied at Cambridge. **T**
- 3 Isaac Newton was a little younger than other students. **F (he was slightly older)**
- 4 Isaac Newton studied optics. **T**
- 5 Isaac Newton took part in politics. **T (he was a Member of Parliament)**
- 6 Isaac Newton gave some of the money that he had to other people. **T**
- 7 Isaac Newton didn't have a wife. **T**