Famous Scientists

CLOTHESPIN PUPPET INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1: Color and cut out your scientist.

STEP 2: Put glue on back side of the cut out as shown.

STEP 3: Glue the top of the head to the top wooden piece of the clothespin. Folding the tab under.

STEP 4: Place bottom piece onto the bottom of clothespin, also folding tab down.

Created and designed by Sarah Gogol, Springfield Museums Exhibition Preparator.
Albert Einstein

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution. It is, strictly speaking, a real factor in scientific research."

- ALBERT EINSTEIN, Cosmic Religion: With Other Opinions and Aphorisms

Albert Einstein was born in Ulm, Germany, in 1879. At a very young age he excelled at math and physics, which led him to develop the theory of relativity in 1905. The theory explains how time and space are related to each other. His famous equation E=mc^2 explains the relationship between energy, matter, and light! In 1921 he received the Nobel Prize for his contribution to the study of physics, but not for relativity. What did he do to earn the Noble Prize? Look it up, it is interesting!

Einstein moved to the United States in the 1930s when Hitler came to power in Germany. Being Jewish, he feared what might happen to him if he stayed. At the outbreak of World War II, Einstein warned President Roosevelt about Germany’s research into a new type of bomb that harnessed nuclear energy. Despite his involvement in telling Roosevelt the power of nuclear weapons, Einstein did not approve of war. In 1940, Einstein became an American citizen. For the remainder of his life, he would continue to study physics. He was one of the greatest minds the world has ever known.

Marie Curie

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." - Marie Curie

Marie Curie was born Maria Skłodowska in Warsaw, Poland, in 1867. She began learning math and physics from her father who was a school teacher. Although she was one of the brightest students in her class, after her formal schooling, she found it difficult to continue her higher education because she was a woman. Nevertheless, she continued her studies and eventually moved to France in 1891 and enrolled at the University of Paris. After she earned her degree and began working in the science field, she met her husband Pierre Curie, who shared similar interests in science.

Marie Curie began studying uranium and its radioactivity in 1897. Her husband would join her in her research and the two would discover that radium could destroy tumor cells in the human body. In 1903, Marie Curie became the first woman to receive a Nobel Prize. From there, she continued to pave the way for women in the science field by becoming the first female professor at the University of Paris and in 1911 she became the first person to win two Nobel Prizes. Although she passed away in 1934 at age 66, her advancements in radiation have propelled the scientific community forward.
Sir Isaac Newton

"We build too many walls and not enough bridges.” - Isaac Newton

Isaac Newton was born in England in 1642. Being a petite child, he focused most of his time and energy on his academics, leading him eventually to study natural philosophy in college. Soon he became interested in learning more about mathematics and physics. One area of interest to him was the study of optics. In 1666, he discovered the connection between color and light in a prism!

Newton gave the world two of the most important scientific advancements: the Laws of Motion and the Law of Universal Gravitation. His Laws of Motion, which he published in 1687, explain the relationship between an object, forces that act on it, and how those forces cause the object to move.

Most famously, Newton is remembered for his understanding of gravity, which he developed after watching apples falling from a tree. His Law of Universal Gravitation explains that every particle in the universe attracts other particles proportionate to their mass. This law explains how the planets stay in the solar system and why we stay on the Earth without falling off! Oh, and he also helped discover calculus as a branch of mathematics!

George Washington Carver

"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.”
- George Washington Carver

George Washington Carver was an agricultural scientist and inventor who developed 105 recipes using peanuts! Born into slavery in the 1860s, Carver was determined to get an education. Before becoming the first black student at Iowa State Agricultural College, he worked odd jobs as a farm hand and plowed fields to earn the money for school. Soon the student became the teacher and Carver accepted a position at the Tuskegee Institute as head of the Agricultural Department. He was passionate about studying and teaching about crop rotation and improving soil quality so that their land more profitable.

While studying the best techniques for crop rotation, Carver discovered his interest in peanuts. He found that if farmers planted a crop of peanuts in between their cotton planting, it would restore the soil and also provide the farmers food that they could either eat or sell. Carver attempted making many inventions using these peanuts, such as soaps and lotions, but they were unsuccessful. However, his many peanut recipes provided farmers with the means to feed their families and expand their businesses.