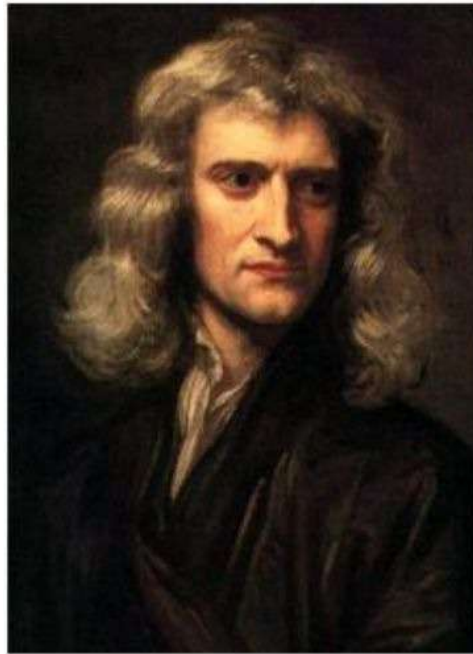


# Famous Scientists - Sir Isaac Newton

by ReadWorks



Gravity is the force that pulls objects towards the earth. There is a story that Sir Isaac Newton discovered gravity one day when he was sitting under a tree. An apple fell from the tree and hit Newton on the head. He realized gravity was the force that kept us on the ground. He also discovered it kept the moon close to the earth. The story of the apple is probably not true. However, it is a good example of how gravity affects things.

Newton was a genius. Unfortunately, people of his time were not ready for his ideas. They were critical of his discoveries. Newton was afraid to publish his findings. They sat on his shelf for over twenty years. Finally, in 1687, his first book was published. Today, it is considered one of the greatest works in the history of science.



**These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:**

1. It is **critical** to our survival.
2. Sleep is so **critical**, Carll says.
3. He wants to inspire people to take a more **critical** look at the world around them.
4. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these **critical** days.
5. Liquid water is **critical** to life as we know it, says Xavier Delfosse, one of the scientists who discovered the planet.

# discover                      dis        •        cov        •        er

## Definition

### verb

1. to find or see before anyone else.

*He discovered oil on his property.*

2. to learn or find out about something through study or by watching.

*We discovered that it was easy to use e-mail.*

## Advanced Definition

### transitive verb

1. to find or see (something unknown) before anyone else.

*Christopher Columbus is said to have discovered America for the Europeans.*

*Scientists have discovered a cure for many diseases.*

2. to learn or gain knowledge of through study or observation.

*I discovered some interesting things about the island while on the tour.*

*We discovered in our experiment that the drug did not produce the effect we expected.*

3. to see or witness due to a chance encounter or deliberate search; find.

*The customs officer discovered them trying to smuggle the birds into the country.*

*We discovered the little girl hiding under the table.*

## Spanish cognate

*descubrir*. The Spanish word *descubrir* means discover.

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## These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Christopher Columbus is often called the first person to **discover** America.
  2. Perhaps Livingstone's biggest dream was to **discover** the source of the Nile.
  3. Follow the buzz to the beehive, and **discover** how honey is made.
  4. He also helped **discover** rivers that missionaries and traders could use to travel.
  5. By studying these small objects, Hooke was the first person to **discover** the cells.
  6. Science is the study of different things in the world. Scientists observe, study, and test ideas to **discover** things that help people.
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The story of the falling apple describes how Newton might have discovered

- A. the moon.
- B. apples.
- C. gravity.
- D. the earth.

2. Why does the author mention the story of the apple?

- A. to show how silly old stories are
- B. it describes Newton's famous discovery
- C. it is the only thing Newton ever published
- D. without it, we wouldn't understand gravity

3. Based on the passage, it is likely that Newton's ideas

- A. were very popular while he was alive
- B. are believed more today than when he was alive
- C. have been proven wrong by today's scientists
- D. are all made up stories

4. Read the following sentences: "An apple fell from the tree and hit Newton on the head. He realized gravity was the force that kept us on the ground."

The word **realized** means

- A. became bruised
- B. listened carefully to something
- C. completely forgot something
- D. started to think something is true

5. This passage is mainly about

- A. how different scientists think of gravity.
- B. Sir Isaac Newton and his discovery of gravity.
- C. myths that people tell about scientific discoveries.
- D. Sir Isaac Newton's fame and riches during his life.

6. Based on information in the passage, describe two things that gravity does.

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7. Based on the passage, why is Newton's work considered some of the greatest work in the history of science even though people of his time had problems with his ideas?

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8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

People of the time were critical of his discoveries, \_\_\_\_\_ Newton was afraid to publish his findings.

- A. despite
- B. therefore
- C. because
- D. even though

**9. Vocabulary Word:** publish: share ideas by printing them.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence:

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  - D. Sir Isaac Newton's fame and riches during his life.



**6.** Based on information in the passage, describe two things that gravity does.

The passage states that gravity causes objects to move towards the earth, makes apples fall from trees, keeps people on the ground, and keeps the moon close to the earth.

**7.** Based on the passage, why is Newton's work considered some of the greatest work in the history of science even though people of his time had problems with his ideas?

Answers will vary but should generally reflect that people have become ready to accept and believe his ideas even though they were not ready during Newton's time.

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**9. Vocabulary Word:** publish: share ideas by printing them.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence:

**Answers will vary.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is a meaning of the word **critical**?

- A. marked by a tendency to find and call attention to errors and flaws
- B. covering three eighths to four eighths of the sky
- C. capable of operating without external control or intervention

2. What is another meaning of the word **critical**?

- A. out of control
- B. urgently needed
- C. of unknown origin

**Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.**

3. They know how to offer \_\_\_\_\_ treatment to patients.

- A. criticisms
- B. criticized
- C. critic
- D. criticism
- E. critics
- F. critically
- G. critical

4. Whether \_\_\_\_\_ like it or not, ecotourism is growing.

- A. criticisms
- B. criticized
- C. critic
- D. criticism
- E. critics
- F. critically
- G. critical

5. It's important to listen to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. criticisms
- B. criticized
- C. critic
- D. criticism
- E. critics
- F. critically
- G. critical

6. We've been \_\_\_\_\_ for rotating teachers too often.

- A. criticisms
- B. criticized
- C. critic
- D. criticism
- E. critics
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- G. critical

7. I'll be the best \_\_\_\_\_ I can.

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- B. criticized
- C. critic
- D. criticism
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8. Many become \_\_\_\_\_ ill and must be admitted to hospitals.

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- B. criticized
- C. critic
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- E. critics
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9. These \_\_\_\_\_ are aimed at common mistakes in parenting.

- A. criticisms
- B. criticized
- C. critic
- D. criticism
- E. critics
- F. critically
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10. Please write your own sentence using the word **critical**.

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11. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **critical** so that you can use it when you write or speak?

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1. What is a meaning of the word **discover**?

- A. to incline or bend from a vertical position
- B. to find or learn something for the first time
- C. get lost

2. What is another meaning of the word **discover**?

- A. have an end
- B. pick out, select, or choose
- C. get to know or become aware of

**Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.**

3. Her first big accomplishment came when she \_\_\_\_\_ a comet.

- A. discovered
- B. discovers
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- E. discover
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4. She would go on to \_\_\_\_\_ 7 more.

- A. discovered
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5. It often takes many scientists working together to make a scientific \_\_\_\_\_.

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