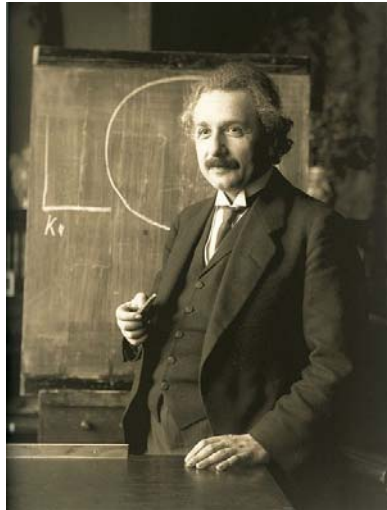


Famous Scientists & Mathematicians

Albert Einstein



You probably recognize the man in this picture. Does his hair and mustache give him away? Have you ever heard of *the theory of relativity* or $E=MC^2$? This is Albert Einstein, one of the most brilliant minds of the 20th Century.

Einstein was originally from Germany. He was also Jewish. Being Jewish made living in Germany during the 1930s very dangerous. Luckily Einstein was able to escape. He left Germany and came to America before the Nazis officially took control of Europe and started **exterminating**¹ Jews. When he came to America, he settled in Princeton, New Jersey. He spent the rest of his life there after becoming a U.S. citizen.

Albert Einstein is known as the father of the nuclear age. His *theory of relativity* helped inventors develop atomic energy, including the atomic bomb. He urged the United States government to **invest**² in the development of the atomic bomb. He believed that the Nazis were well on their way to creating such a bomb. He didn't want them to have the upper hand in the war.

¹ **exterminate:** killing; attempting to get rid of completely

² **invest:** to put resources into; to spend money to develop

Throughout his life, Einstein greatly contributed to the scientific world and became famous. Almost anyone could recognize him with his sloppy hairstyle. He was so **revered**³ in the world that Israel once asked him to become president of their state. He gracefully **declined**⁴. Although he passed away in 1955, Albert Einstein's works are still cherished today and will be for some time to come.

³ **revere:** to show devotion and honor to ; think of with reverence

⁴ **decline:** to refuse courteously ; to show unwillingness to accept

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Einstein is easy to recognize because of his
 - a. smile.
 - b. hair.
 - c. formulas.
 - d. ethnicity.
2. Which of the following events occurred first?
 - a. Einstein came to America.
 - b. Einstein passed away in 1955.
 - c. Einstein lived in Germany.
 - d. Einstein encouraged the American government to develop the atomic bomb.
3. According to the passage, the saying “to have the upper hand” means
 - a. to have an advantage.
 - b. to be behind.
 - c. to be craftier.
 - d. to be more dangerous.
4. According to the passage, *gracefully* means
 - a. softly.
 - b. harshly.
 - c. quickly.
 - d. politely.
5. From the passage you can conclude that Israel asked Einstein to be president because he was
 - a. funny and odd.
 - b. musical and scientific.
 - c. American and thoughtful.
 - d. intelligent and principled.

6. What kind of person was Albert Einstein? Choose one adjective to describe him and support your answer with at least one detail from the text.

7. Explain two ways that Einstein's theory of relativity changed the world.

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

_____ he passed away in 1955, Albert Einstein's works are still cherished today and will be for some time to come.

- a. First
- b. Throughout
- c. Although
- d. Once

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In 1933, Albert Einstein escaped Germany to get away from the Nazis who were killing Jews.

Who? Albert Einstein

When? _____

(did) What? _____

Why? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** revere: to show devotion and honor to; think of with reverence.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 720**Featured Text Structure:** Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic**Passage Summary:** Albert Einstein was born in Germany but moved to the United States to escape the Nazis. He was a famous scientist and mathematician who developed the theory of relativity, which led to the creation of atomic energy and the atomic bomb.

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6. What kind of person was Albert Einstein? Choose one adjective to describe him and support your answer with at least one detail from the text.

Suggested answer: Answers will vary. Students could say that Einstein was intelligent and support that adjective with details about his theory of relativity; or they could say that he was brave, supporting that answer with his escape from Nazi Germany. They could say that he was polite, supporting that answer with his response to Israel's request that he become president.

7. Explain two ways that Einstein's theory of relativity changed the world.

Suggested answer: Einstein's theory of relativity changed the world because it assisted in the development of atomic energy and the atomic bomb.

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

_____ he passed away in 1955, Albert Einstein's works are still cherished today and will be for some time to come.

- a. First
- b. Throughout
- c. Although**
- d. Once

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In 1933, Albert Einstein escaped Germany to get away from the Nazis who were killing Jews.

Who? Albert Einstein

When? **1933**

(did) What? **escaped Germany**

Why? **to get away from the Nazis**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** revere: to show devotion and honor to: think of with reverence

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.