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100 Interesting Facts About Issac Newton

Did you know Newton used to be a farmer? To learn more interesting facts about Issac Newton, just flip the page!

1:

Newton was born prematurely. He was so small he could fit inside a quart size mug.

2:

Isaac Newton’s father had the same name as him.

3:

Newton’s father perished three months before he was born.

4:

Newton’s mother remarried and left the then three-year-old Newton at his maternal grandmother’s.

5:

Newton had a personal journal in which he detailed his hatred towards his mother and his step-father.

6:

Newton once threatened to burn down a house with his mother and stepfather inside.

7:

Newton’s mother pushed him to become a farmer. Newton hated it and his mother ultimately allowed him to get his formal education.

8:

Newton had 3 half-siblings.

9:

Newton was extremely shy and quiet and he was bullied at school because of it.

10:

Newton attended The King’s School, Grantham from the age of 12 to 17.

11:

You could see Newton’s engraved signature on a windowsill of The Kings’s School.

12:

Newton’s old school, The King’s School is still operational today.

13:

The bubonic plague of 1665 interrupted Newton’s education for 2 years. It was during those times that he saw an apple falling from the Woolsthorpe manor gardens.

14:

Newton won a four-year scholarship to Cambridge University.

15:

Newton became a mathematics professor at Cambridge University when he was just 27. He had just gotten his master’s degree for about a year.

16:

Issac Newton invented calculus.

17:

Newton lost the equivalent of 3 million dollars in today’s money investing in the South Sea Company.

18:

Newton forbade anyone from saying the name “South Sea” while he is within earshot because of his failure on the South Sea Company investment.

19:

Even though Newton is well-known in the scientific community, he wrote more about religion and alchemy than science.

20:

In the 1960s, Newton’s 10 million-word paper was published. The paper was published long after his death and was on the subject of religion.

21:

Newton’s descendants kept his paper regarding religion in secret fearing that the paper would tarnish his image in the scientific community.

22:

Newton’s Principia was a collection of three books that talked about different ideas including the theory of gravity.

23:

Newton was a member of the Parliament of England.

24:

Newton never married.

25:

It is thought that Newton died a virgin.

26:

Newton may have Asperger Syndrome. He had a terrible social life, spoke little words, and had some anger problems.

27:

Newton even forgot to eat sometimes due to his preoccupation with his work.

28:

Newton’s students were not a fan of his teaching. They could hardly understand it and many didn’t understand his lectures. Still, Newton carried on. He was not

at all concerned about his students. He was more focused on his own research.

29:

Newton suffered from severe stomach pain in his later life.

30:

Newton was interested in Alchemy, Mathematics, Optics, and Astronomy and had done extensive research on the subjects.

31:

Newton’s father was a farmer.

32:

Newton wrote an article on the textual criticism of the Bible.

33:

Newton’s work centred on the effects of bodies in motion, diffraction of light, gravity, centrifugal force, and centripetal force.

34:

Newton had trouble receiving criticism and all who ever criticized him were enemies for life.

35:

Newton believed that the world would end sometime after the year 2060.

36:

One of Newton’s teeth was sold for $3,600 in 1816 at an auction.

37:

The tree to which Newton discovered gravity is still alive to this date.

38:

Newton once blinded himself for three days while trying to look at the sun in a mirror.

39:

Newton once trapped a needle in his eye in an attempt to study how the eye perceives colour.

40:

The trip to the moon would be impossible without Newton’s theories about the planet's movements and the speed of light.

41:

Newton did the prism rainbow experiment in which a beam of light scattered into components of colors through a glass prism in 1665.

42:

The financial crises in the 17th century Britain was in part improved because of Newton.

43:

Newton kept a list of all the sins he committed until the age of 19.

44:

Newton wasn’t expected to survive since his premature birth was estimated to be about 11 – 15 weeks early.

45:

The story of Newton sleeping under a tree and the apple hitting him in the head

never happened. Newton simply saw the apple fall from a tree from a window.

46:

Newton was a stutterer.

47:

Newton was actually born on Christmas Day but because the calendar was adjusted by 11 days, his birthday is now January the 4th.

48:

Newton was a member of parliament but he only spoke up once and it was to tell someone to close a window because it was too cold.

49:

Newton’s many papers were considered unfit to be published. One of those was a paper on the Philosopher’s Stone – a supposed stone that could turn lead into gold.

50:

Newton had a dog that caused a fire in his lab. 20 years of his research was gone. However, some historians believe that Newton never owned a dog, he just left a window open and the wind knocked over the candle which caused the fire.

51:

Newton’s hair turned grey at the age of 30.

52:

Some historians believed Newton suffered from mercury poisoning from all his alchemy experiments.

53:

Newton created a telescope that was ten times smaller than the telescope at the time and was more powerful.

54:

Many scientists at the time tried to replicate Newton’s color spectrum prism experiment without success and he was discredited and criticized. Newton did not take the criticisms well especially those from his rival – Robert Hooke.

55:

Newton’s helped recall many counterfeited coins circulating in 17th century Britain at the time and was appointed the Master of the Mint for his effort.

56:

Newton was elected as the President of the Royal Society in 1703.

57:

Newton tried to remove Robert Hooke from history books.

58:

Newton fought with Gottfried Leibniz over who invented calculus.

59:

Newton’s three laws of motion had a fundamental impact on today’s physics and natural sciences.

60:

Newton was fascinated by Descartes the philosopher.

61:

Newton’s first reflecting telescope was invented in 1668.

62:

Newton suffered a nervous breakdown after a heated correspondence between him and Hooke. He then hid away from the public in 1678.

63:

Edmund Halley, an English astronomer visited Newton in 1684 and urged Newton to publish his work on the elliptical paths of celestial bodies.

64:

In 1687, “Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica” was published. It talked about the three laws of motion and the law of universal gravity.

65:

Newton was against King James II’s desire to reinstitute Catholic teachings at English Universities.

66:

Newton remained a rival with Hooke until Hooke died in 1703.

67:

Newton was knighted by Queen Anne of England in 1705.

68:

Newton developed the concept of differentials in calculus in the mid-1660s.

69:

There was a public debate about who was the founder of calculus. Researchers of modern-day concluded that both Newton and Leibniz likely invented calculus independently of each other.

70:

Newton was a big fan of history and religious doctrines.

71:

Newton spent his last years with his niece at Cranbury Park near Winchester, England.

72:

Many of Newton’s quotes survived to this date.

73:

“If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants” – Newton

74:

“I can calculate the motion of heavenly bodies but not the madness of people” – Newton.

75:

“What we know is a drop, what we don’t know is an ocean” – Newton.

76:

“Gravity explains the motions of the planets, but it cannot explain who sets the planets in motion” – Newton.

77:

“No great discovery was ever made without a bold guess” – Newton.

78:

Newton’s father was wealthy although uneducated.

79:

Newton attended Free Grammar school.

80:

Newton did not excel at school but he earned a spot at Cambridge University where he planned to study law.

81:

Newton’s mother refused to pay for Newton’s college education.

82:

Newton worked as a servant in order to have a chance at education.

83:

Newton’s interest in mathematics started when he bought a book that contained mathematical concepts he did not understand.

84:

Newton received his Bachelor's degree in 1665.

85:

Newton spoke out against King James II who wanted only Roman Catholics to be in positions of power in academia and the government.

86:

After suffering his second nervous breakdown, Newton retired from research in 1693.

87:

Newton often delayed publications of his work due to fear of criticism.

88:

Newton was born only one year after Galileo died.

89:

Newton’s mother remarried Barnabas Smith who was 63 years old at the time.

90:

Newton’s mother and grandmother were literate while Newton’s father wasn’t.

91:

Newton was taught how to read by his grandmother and mother.

92:

Newton’s youth were turbulent times as it was the time was the English Civil War begun. King Charles was beheaded during the period.

93:

Newton taught himself mathematics by reading works by Oughtred, Viete, Wallis, and Descartes.

94:

Newton had tried to publish works on Calculus in 1671 but he found that no one would publish them which led him to lose interest in mathematics for some time.

95:

Newton’s niece born of his half-sister had many connections that helped Newton’s paper came to prosperity.

96:

The reason Newton’s mother left him with Newton’s maternal grandmother was that Newton’s step-father didn’t want a step-son. The feeling of abandonment likely caused Newton to be untrusting of people.

97:

Newton didn’t originally excel at school until he had a confrontation with a school bully which gave Newton the motivation he needed to become a top student.

98:

When Newton was 15 or 16, his step-father died and he was ordered to quit school to become a farmer at the request of his mother.

99:

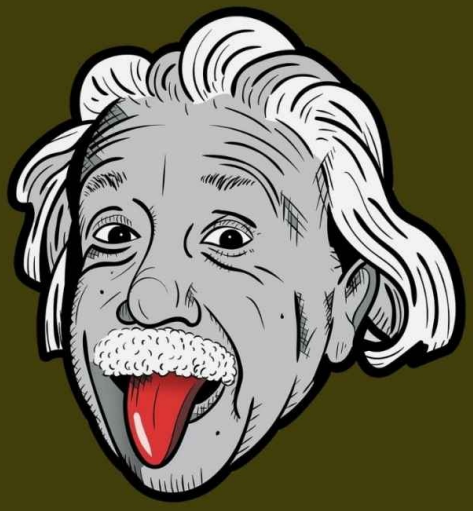
Newton’s school teacher persuaded Newton’s mother to allow her son to return to school to which she agreed since Newton was a terrible farmer.

100:

Newton died in his sleep on March 31, 1727, at the age of 84 after suffering severe stomach pain. His lasting contribution to the field of mathematics and physics lives on.

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