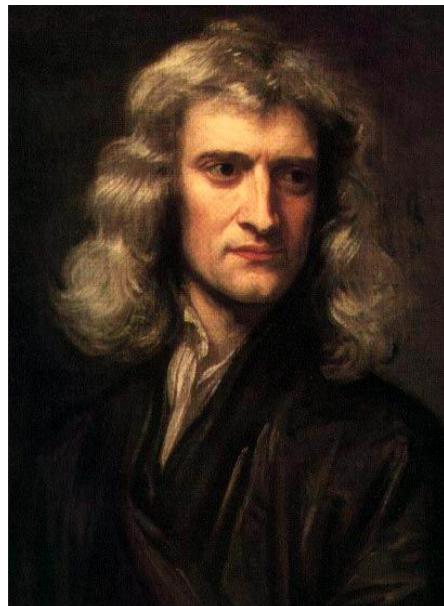


## Famous Scientists Sir Isaac Newton



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.

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. Read the following sentence.

**In 1687, Newton published his first book because he wanted to share his discoveries.**

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

1. Who? Newton
2. What? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Vocabulary Word:** publish: share ideas by printing.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

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