

# Famous Scientists & Their Contributions

WebQuest / Internet Scavenger Hunt



Project Based Learning  
for Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Lesson includes

- Teacher & Student Resources
- WebQuest with Answer Key
- Print & Digital (editable) Versions



Created by: Innovations in Technology

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Includes:

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Student & Teacher  
Resources

WebQuest & Answer Key  
Print & Digital Versions

**Student Resources**

Suggested Sites for Student Research

- Famous Scientists: <https://www.khanacademy.org/a/famous-scientists>
- Famous Scientist Biographies: <https://www.ck12.org/reading/Science%20Biographies%20and%20Scientists/>
- Famous Scientists: <https://www.ck12.org/reading/Science%20Biographies%20and%20Scientists/>

about appropriate at the time of publication. However, the internet is not a static place for accumulating facts to students.

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**Famous Scientists & Their Contributions**  
Teacher & Student Resources

**Lesson Overview**

In this lesson, students learn interesting facts about famous scientists and their contributions as they complete a WebQuest/Internet Scavenger Hunt to answer questions about the topic. A printable answer key is provided for the WebQuest for easy grading along with resources for both teachers and students. The student questions are included in both a print version and a digital interactive version to make it easy for students to complete the lesson digitally or on paper. This resource is intended to be an introduction to the topic and was designed for middle school grades 6-8, but could be used for middle or elementary in high school as well. This is also a great lesson to leave for a substitute teacher!

**Materials Required:**

- Computers with internet access for each student (or pair of students)
- Software such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs

**Files Included:**

- Teacher & Student Resources
- Learning about Famous Scientists WebQuest Activity, print and editable digital files included.
- Learning about Famous Scientists WebQuest Answer Key

**Approximate Lesson Duration:**

- 1-200 minute class period

**Teacher Resources**

**Introduction to the Lesson**

- 30-Second Science: Who Changed the World? Lesson 1/26: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30-second-science-who-changed-the-world-lesson-1-26>
- Top 50 Greatest Scientists in History: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Top-50-Greatest-Scientists-in-History>
- Top 50 Greatest Scientists in the World: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Top-50-Greatest-Scientists-in-the-World>

**Related Lesson and Extension Ideas:**

- Teaching Science in 21st Century: Technology, Engineering & Media: <https://www.ck12.org/reading/Teaching-Science-in-21st-Century-Technology-Engineering-and-Media/>
- National Science Teachers Association - Teachers for Teachers: <https://www.nsta.org/teachers-for-teachers>
- Links to other articles of individual scientists: <https://www.ck12.org/reading/Science%20Biographies%20and%20Scientists/>

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**ANSWER KEY**

Use the sites provided by your teacher or to include the full URL for the site where you found the answer.

1. Sir Isaac Newton made contributions to what country was he from?  
1643-1726, England  
<https://www.ck12.org/reading/Science%20Biographies%20and%20Scientists/>
2. What are two of Sir Isaac Newton's important contributions to the field of science?  
Newton was the first to suggest that gravity was an attractive force that acted on all objects in the universe, and he developed a theory of gravitation.  
<https://www.ck12.org/reading/Science%20Biographies%20and%20Scientists/>
3. Louis Pasteur was a French scientist who lived during the late 1800's through the mid 1900's. What important scientific contribution did he make?  
<https://www.ck12.org/reading/Science%20Biographies%20and%20Scientists/>
4. What are two of Louis Pasteur's important contributions to the field of science?  
Louis Pasteur was the first to suggest that germs were the cause of disease, and he developed a theory of germ theory.  
<https://www.ck12.org/reading/Science%20Biographies%20and%20Scientists/>
5. Charles Darwin was considered a natural scientist. What country is he from and what years did he live?  
Darwin, 1809-1882  
<https://www.ck12.org/reading/Science%20Biographies%20and%20Scientists/>
6. What was Charles Darwin's most important contribution to the field of science?  
Darwin developed a theory of evolution.  
<https://www.ck12.org/reading/Science%20Biographies%20and%20Scientists/>
7. Nikola Tesla was a well-known scientist who contributed to the field of science. What years did he live?  
<https://www.ck12.org/reading/Science%20Biographies%20and%20Scientists/>

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10. What are two important contributions Albert Einstein made to the field of science?

11. Who made was a German scientist who lived during the late 1800's through the mid 1900's. What important scientific contribution did he make?

12. Marie Curie was a

13. What are two topics

14. Galileo was a well known

15. What are two topics

16. Sir Isaac Newton made contributions to both mathematics and science. What years did he live? What country was he from?

17. Stephen Hawking is best known for his work in the field of

18. What are two topics

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Use the sites provided by your teacher or search on the Internet to help you find the answers. Include the full URL for the site where you found each answer.

1. Sir Isaac Newton made contributions to both mathematics and science. What years did he live? What country was he from?
2. What are two of Sir Isaac Newton's important contributions to the field of science?
3. Louis Pasteur was a French microbiologist and chemist. What years did he live?
4. What are two of Louis Pasteur's important contributions to the field of science?
5. Charles Darwin was considered a natural scientist. What country is he from and what years did he live?
6. What was Charles Darwin's most important contribution to the field of science?
7. Nikola Tesla was a well-known scientist who contributed to the field of science. What years did he live?
8. What are two important contributions Nikola Tesla made to the field of science?
9. Albert Einstein contributed to both the fields of mathematics and science. What years did he live?

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