

Einstein in Time

This text is provided courtesy of OLogy, the American Museum of Natural History's website for kids.

Albert Einstein has been called one of the freest people who ever lived. He didn't let anything hold back his imagination, and it powered him to completely new places. As a great humanitarian, Einstein supported causes that helped people around the globe. Take a trip through his incredible life and see for yourself!

Albert Einstein is born on March 14 to a Jewish family in Ulm, Germany.

1879

Receives a compass from his dad, which sparks his curiosity about how things work. This curiosity leads to a lifelong love of physics, mathematics, and philosophy.

1884



Starts playing the violin.

1885

"If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician...I get most joy in life out of music."

Enrolls in university in Switzerland and gives up German citizenship. He later becomes a Swiss citizen.

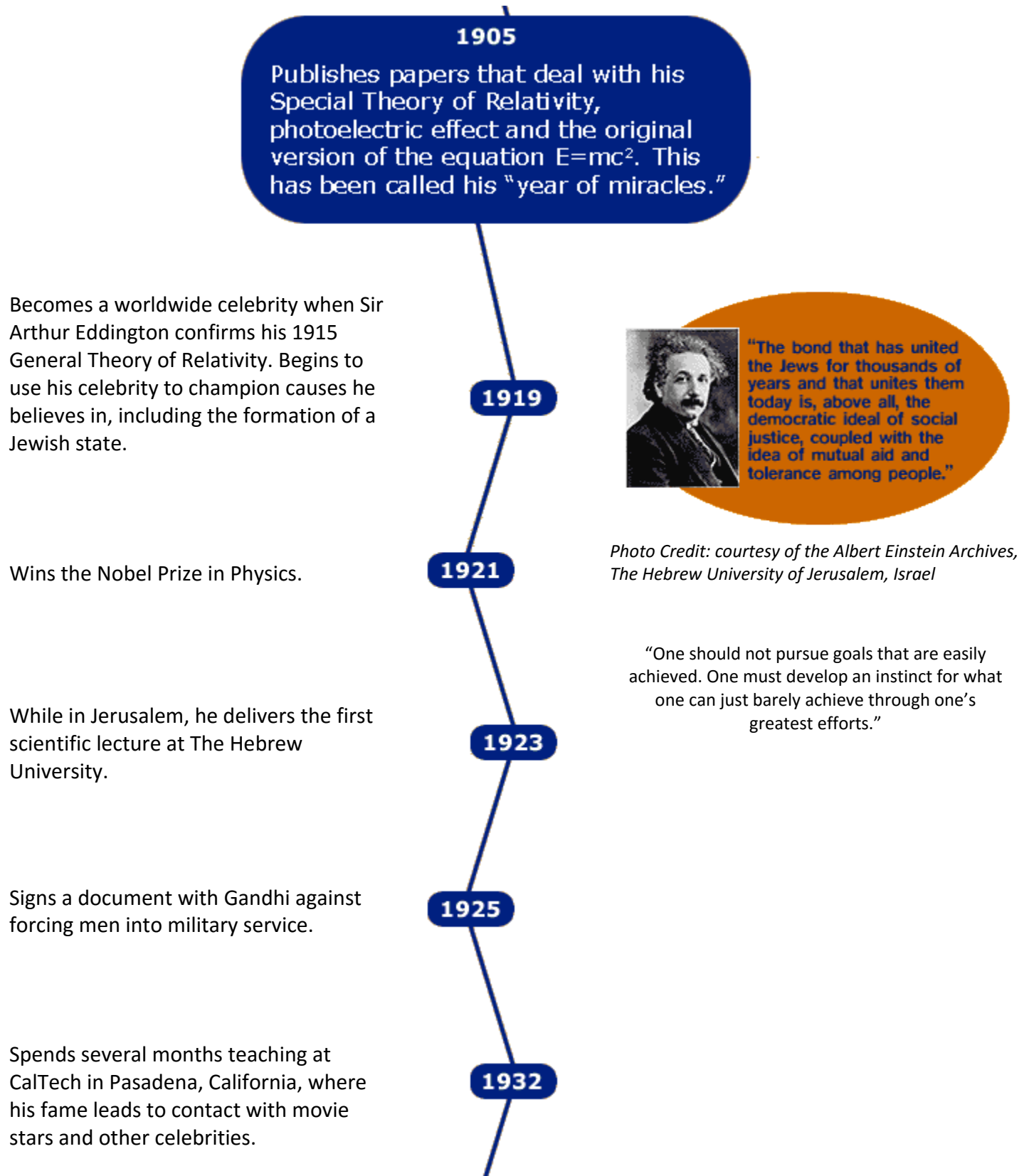
1896



Photo Credit: courtesy of the Albert Einstein Archives, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel (top and bottom)

After graduating from Zurich Polytechnic Institute, he takes a job in a Swiss patent office.

1902



Gives up his job at a school in Germany as the Nazi party comes to power. Joins the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University in New Jersey.

1933

"I did not wish to live in a country where the individual does not enjoy equality before the law and freedom to say and teach what he likes."



Photo Credit: courtesy of the Albert Einstein Archives, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Writes to President Franklin D. Roosevelt urging the U.S. to develop atomic energy research. He is concerned that Nazi Germany's research will soon allow it to build an atomic bomb. Later, he regrets sending the letter.

1939

"I made one mistake in my life — when I signed that letter to President Roosevelt advocating that the bomb should be built."

Becomes a U.S. citizen.

1940



"America is today the hope of all honorable men who respect the rights of their fellow men and who believe in the principles of freedom..."

Photo Credit: courtesy of Hulton Archive/Getty

Turns down an offer from the State of Israel, which is 4 years old, to be its president.

1952

Speaks out against the mistreatment of those unjustly accused of being communists during the era of McCarthyism.

1953

"In the last analysis, everybody is a human being..."

Dies on April 18 at Princeton Hospital.

1955



Photo Credit: Time Magazine Cover

Time magazine names Einstein "Person of the Century."

2000

Everyday Einstein: Humanitarian

Einstein is now a household word that means "genius." During his life, Einstein used his fame to draw attention to things he believed in. He spoke about peace between Jews and Arabs and about finding homes for both Jewish and political refugees. He opposed all forms of racial and ethnic discrimination, such as segregation. He was also an activist for world peace and democracy. Einstein realized that the scientific community can either help or hurt our civilization and believed that scientists are responsible for their actions.

If you were a superstar celebrity, how would you use your fame to make the world a better place?

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Einstein became a worldwide celebrity in 1919 after Sir Arthur Eddington confirmed which theory of his?

2. Read this sentence from the text.

"During his life, Einstein used his fame to draw attention to things he believed in."

Support this statement using at least two examples from the text and images.

3. What is the main idea of this text?

4. Identify one word that you would use to describe Einstein.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

5. Along the timeline in the text, a number of Einstein's quotes are featured. What do these quotes reveal about Einstein's beliefs or values?

Use at least two examples from the text to support your answer.