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# BIDIT PAKRASHI's Home

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# WikiGPT

**Albert Einstein** (/ˈanstɑːn/ *EYEN-stye*<sup>[6]</sup> German: [ˈalbɪt ˈaɪnʃtʰaːn] listen); 14 March 1879 – 18 April 1955) was a German-born [theoretical physicist](#),<sup>[7]</sup> widely acknowledged to be one of the greatest and most influential physicists of all time. Einstein is best known for developing the [theory of relativity](#), but he also made important contributions to the development of the theory of [quantum mechanics](#). Relativity and quantum mechanics are the two pillars of [modern physics](#).<sup>[3][8]</sup> His [mass–energy equivalence](#) formula  $E = mc^2$ , which arises from relativity theory, has been dubbed "the world's most famous equation".<sup>[9]</sup> His work is also known for its influence on the [philosophy of science](#).<sup>[10][11]</sup> He received the 1921 [Nobel Prize in Physics](#) "for his services to theoretical physics, and especially for his discovery of the law of the [photoelectric effect](#)",<sup>[12]</sup> a pivotal step in the development of quantum theory. His intellectual achievements and originality resulted in "Einstein" becoming synonymous with "genius".<sup>[13]</sup> [Einsteinium](#), one of the synthetic elements in the [periodic table](#), was named in his honor.<sup>[14]</sup>

In 1905, a year sometimes described as his [annus mirabilis](#) ('miracle year'), Einstein published [four groundbreaking papers](#).<sup>[15]</sup> These outlined the theory of the photoelectric effect, explained [Brownian motion](#), introduced [special relativity](#), and demonstrated mass–energy equivalence. Einstein thought that the laws of [classical mechanics](#) could no longer be reconciled with those of the [electromagnetic field](#), which led him to develop his special theory of relativity. He then extended the theory to gravitational fields; he published a paper on [general relativity](#) in 1916, introducing his theory of gravitation. In 1917, he applied the general theory of relativity to model the structure of the [universe](#).<sup>[16][17]</sup> He continued to deal with problems of [statistical mechanics](#) and quantum theory, which led to his explanations of particle theory and the [motion of molecules](#). He also investigated the thermal properties of light and the quantum theory of [radiation](#), which laid the foundation of the [photon](#) theory of light.

However, for much of the later part of his career, he worked on two ultimately unsuccessful endeavors. First, despite his great contributions to quantum mechanics, he opposed what it evolved into, objecting that "God does not play dice".<sup>[18]</sup> Second, he attempted to devise a [unified field theory](#) by generalizing his geometric theory of [gravitation](#) to include [electromagnetism](#). As a result, he became increasingly isolated from the mainstream of modern physics.

Einstein was born in the [German Empire](#), but moved to [Switzerland](#) in 1895, forsaking his German citizenship (as a subject of the [Kingdom of Württemberg](#))<sup>[note 1]</sup> the following year. In 1897, at the age of 17, he enrolled in the mathematics and physics teaching diploma program at the Swiss [Federal polytechnic school](#) in [Zürich](#), graduating in 1900. In 1901, he acquired Swiss citizenship, which he kept for the rest of his life, and in 1903 he secured a permanent position at the [Swiss Patent Office](#) in Bern. In 1905, he was awarded a PhD by the [University of Zurich](#). In 1914, Einstein moved to [Berlin](#) in order to join the [Prussian Academy of Sciences](#) and the [Humboldt University of Berlin](#). In 1917, Einstein became director of the [Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physics](#); he also became a German citizen again, this time [Prussian](#).

In 1933, while Einstein was visiting the United States, [Adolf Hitler](#) came to power in Germany. Einstein, as a Jew, objected to the policies of the newly elected [Nazi government](#);<sup>[19]</sup> he settled in the United States and became an [American citizen](#) in 1940.<sup>[20]</sup> On the eve of [World War II](#), he endorsed a [letter](#) to President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) alerting him to the potential [German nuclear weapons program](#) and recommending that the US begin [similar research](#). Einstein supported the [Allies](#) but generally denounced the idea of [nuclear weapons](#).<sup>[21]</sup>

## Early life and education



See also: [Einstein family](#)

Einstein at the age of three in 1882



Einstein in 1893 (age 14)

Albert Einstein was born in [Ulm](#),<sup>[7]</sup> in the [Kingdom of Württemberg](#) in the [German Empire](#), on 14 March 1879 into a family of secular [Ashkenazi Jews](#).<sup>[22][23]</sup> His parents were [Hermann Einstein](#), a salesman and engineer, and [Pauline Koch](#). In 1880, the family moved to [Munich](#), where Einstein's father and his uncle Jakob founded *Elektrotechnische Fabrik J. Einstein & Cie*, a company that manufactured electrical equipment based on [direct current](#).<sup>[7]</sup>

Albert attended a [Catholic elementary school](#) in Munich, from the age of five, for three years. At the age of eight, he was transferred to the Luitpold-Gymnasium (now known as the [Albert-Einstein-Gymnasium](#)), where he received advanced primary and secondary school education until he left the German Empire seven years later.<sup>[24]</sup>

In 1894, Hermann and Jakob's company lost a bid to supply the city of Munich with electrical lighting because they lacked the capital to convert their equipment from the [direct current](#) (DC) standard to the more efficient [alternating current](#) (AC) standard.<sup>[25]</sup> The loss forced the sale of the Munich factory. In search of business, the Einstein family moved to Italy, first to [Milan](#) and a few months later to [Pavia](#). In Pavia, the Einsteins settled in [Palazzo Cornazzani](#), a medieval building where, at different times, [Ugo Foscolo](#), [Contardo Ferrini](#) and [Ada Negri](#) lived.<sup>[26]</sup> When the family moved to Pavia, Einstein, then 15, stayed in Munich to finish his studies at the Luitpold Gymnasium. His father intended for him to pursue [electrical engineering](#), but Einstein clashed with the authorities and resented the school's regimen and teaching method. He later wrote that the spirit of learning and creative thought was lost in strict [rote learning](#). At the end of December 1894, he traveled to Italy to join his family in Pavia, convincing the school to let him go by using a doctor's note.<sup>[27]</sup> During his time in Italy, he wrote a short essay with the title "On the Investigation of the State of the [Ether](#) in a Magnetic Field".<sup>[28][29]</sup>

Einstein excelled at math and physics from a young age, reaching a mathematical level years ahead of his peers. The 12-year-old Einstein taught himself algebra and Euclidean geometry over a single summer.<sup>[30]</sup> Einstein also independently discovered his own original proof of the [Pythagorean theorem](#) aged 12.<sup>[31]</sup> A family tutor [Max Talmud](#) says that after he had given the 12-year-old Einstein a geometry textbook, after a short time "[Einstein] had worked through the whole book. He thereupon devoted himself to higher mathematics ... Soon the flight of his mathematical genius was so high I could not follow."<sup>[32]</sup> His passion for geometry and algebra led the 12-year-old to become convinced that nature could be understood as a "mathematical structure".<sup>[32]</sup> Einstein started teaching himself calculus at 12, and as a 14-year-old he says he had "mastered [integral](#) and [differential calculus](#)".<sup>[33]</sup>

At the age of 13, when he had become more seriously interested in philosophy (and music),<sup>[34]</sup> Einstein was introduced to [Kant's Critique of Pure Reason](#). Kant became his favorite philosopher, his tutor stating: "At the time he was still a child, only thirteen years old, yet Kant's works, incomprehensible to ordinary mortals, seemed to be clear to him."<sup>[32]</sup>



Einstein's [Matura](#) certificate, 1896<sup>[note 2]</sup>

In 1895, at the age of 16, Einstein took the entrance examinations for the Swiss [Federal polytechnic school](#) in [Zürich](#) (later the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, ETH). He failed to reach the required standard in the general part of the examination,<sup>[35]</sup> but obtained exceptional grades in physics and mathematics.<sup>[36]</sup> On the advice of the principal of the polytechnic school, he attended the [Argovian cantonal school \(gymnasium\)](#) in [Aarau](#), Switzerland, in 1895 and 1896 to complete his secondary schooling. While lodging with the family of [Jost Winteler](#), he fell in love with Winteler's daughter, Marie. Einstein's sister [Maja](#) later married Winteler's son Paul.<sup>[37]</sup> In January 1896, with his father's approval, Einstein renounced his [citizenship in the German Kingdom of Württemberg](#) to avoid [military service](#).<sup>[38]</sup> In September 1896 he passed the Swiss [Matura](#) with mostly good grades, including a top grade of 6 in physics and mathematical subjects, on a [scale of 1–6](#).<sup>[39]</sup> At 17, he enrolled in the four-year mathematics and physics teaching diploma program at the Federal polytechnic school. Marie Winteler, who was a year older, moved to [Olsberg](#), Switzerland, for a teaching post.<sup>[37]</sup>

Einstein's future wife, a 20-year-old [Serbian](#) named [Mileva Mari](#), also enrolled at the polytechnic school that year. She was the only woman among the six students in the mathematics and physics section of the teaching diploma course. Over the next few years, Einstein's and Mari's friendship developed into a romance, and they spent countless hours debating and reading books together on extra-curricular physics in which they were both interested. Einstein wrote in his letters to Mari that he preferred studying alongside her.<sup>[40]</sup> In 1900, Einstein passed the exams in Maths and Physics and was awarded a Federal teaching diploma.<sup>[41]</sup> There is eyewitness evidence and several letters over many years that indicate Mari might have collaborated with Einstein prior to his landmark 1905 papers,<sup>[40][42][43]</sup> known as the [Annus Mirabilis papers](#), and that they developed some of the concepts together during their studies, although some historians of physics who have studied the issue disagree that she made any substantive contributions.<sup>[44][45][46][47]</sup>

## Marriages and children



Albert Einstein and [Mileva Mari Einstein](#), 1912

Early correspondence between Einstein and Mari was discovered and published in 1987 which revealed that the couple had a daughter named "[Lieserl](#)", born in early 1902 in [Novi Sad](#) where Mari was staying with her parents. Mari returned to Switzerland without the child, whose real name and fate are unknown. The contents of Einstein's letter in September 1903 suggest that the girl was either given up for adoption or died of [scarlet fever](#) in infancy.<sup>[48][49]</sup>

Einstein and Mari married in January 1903. In May 1904, their son [Hans Albert Einstein](#) was born in [Bern](#), Switzerland. Their son [Eduard](#) was born in Zürich in July 1910. The couple moved to Berlin in April 1914, but Mari returned to Zürich with their sons after learning that, despite their close relationship before,<sup>[40]</sup> Einstein's chief romantic attraction was now his cousin [Elsa Löwenthal](#);<sup>[50]</sup> she was his first cousin maternally and second cousin paternally.<sup>[51]</sup> Einstein and Mari divorced on 14 February 1919, having lived apart for five years.<sup>[52][53]</sup> As part of the divorce settlement, Einstein agreed to give Mari any future (in the event, 1921) Nobel Prize money.<sup>[54]</sup>

In letters revealed in 2015, Einstein wrote to his early love Marie Winteler about his marriage and his strong feelings for her. He wrote in 1910, while his wife was pregnant with their second child: "I think of you in heartfelt love every spare minute and am so unhappy as only a man can be." He spoke about a "misguided love" and a "missed life" regarding his love for Marie.<sup>[55]</sup>

Einstein married Löwenthal in 1919,<sup>[56][57]</sup> after having had a relationship with her since 1912.<sup>[51][58]</sup> They emigrated to the United States in 1933. Elsa was diagnosed with heart and kidney problems in 1935 and died in December 1936.<sup>[59]</sup>

In 1923, Einstein fell in love with a secretary named Betty Neumann, the niece of a close friend, Hans Mühsam.<sup>[60][61][62][63]</sup> In a volume of letters released by [Hebrew University of Jerusalem](#) in 2006,<sup>[64]</sup> Einstein described about six women, including Margarete Lebach (a blonde Austrian), Estella Katzenellenbogen (the rich owner of a florist business), Toni Mendel (a wealthy Jewish widow) and Ethel Michanowski (a Berlin socialite), with whom he spent time and from whom he received gifts while being married to Elsa.<sup>[65][66]</sup> Later, after the death of his second wife Elsa, Einstein was briefly in a relationship with Margarita Konenkova. Konenkova was a Russian spy who was married to the Russian sculptor [Sergei Konenkov](#) (who created the bronze bust of Einstein at the [Institute for Advanced Study](#) at Princeton).<sup>[67][68][[failed verification](#)]</sup>

Einstein's son Eduard had a breakdown at about age 20 and was diagnosed with [schizophrenia](#).<sup>[69]</sup> His mother cared for him and he was also committed to asylums for several periods, finally, after her death, being committed permanently to [Burghölzli](#), the Psychiatric University Hospital in Zürich.<sup>[70]</sup>