**Muhammad (570 – 632 AD)**

Prophet of Islam.

 Founder of Islam. Whilst in seclusion in a mountain cave, Muhammad reported receiving a series of revelations from God; these revelations form the verses of the Qu’ran, regarded by Muslims as the “Word of God” and around which the Islamic religion is based. Muhammad was a significant religious, political and military leader who helped to unite Arabia under the new religion of Islam.

[**Isaac Newton**](https://www.biographyonline.net/scientists/isaac-newton.html)**(1642 – 1727)**

British mathematician and scientist.

He is widely regarded as one of the most influential scientists of all time, developing new laws of mechanics, gravity and laws of motion. His work [*Principia Mathematica*](http://amzn.to/2iECIBO) (1687) laid the framework for the Scientific Revolution of the Seventeenth Century. A great polymath, Newton’s investigations also included areas of optics, religion and alchemy.

[**Christopher Columbus**](https://www.biographyonline.net/adventurers/christopher-columbus.html)**(1451 – 1506)**

Italian explorer landed in America.

 colonizer, and navigator. He is remembered as the principal European discoverer of the Americas and he helped bring the Americas to the forefront of the western consciousness. His discoveries and travels laid the framework for the later European colonisation of Latin and North America.

[**Albert Einstein**](https://www.biographyonline.net/scientists/albert-einstein.html)**(1879 – 1955)**

German/ US scientist discovered Theory of Relativity.

Born in Germany in 1879, Albert Einstein is one of the most celebrated scientists of the Twentieth Century. His theories on relativity laid the framework for a new branch of physics, and Einstein’s *E* = *mc*2 on mass-energy equivalence is one of the most famous formulas in the world. In 1921, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for his contributions to theoretical physics and the evolution of Quantum Theory.

[Galileo Galilei](https://www.biographyonline.net/scientists/galileo.html)(1564 – 1642)

Italian astronomer, scientist and philosopher

who played a leading role in the Scientific Revolution. Galileo improved the telescope and made many significant discoveries in astronomy. His findings encouraged him to speak out for the Copernican view that the earth revolved around the sun. However, his views were considered heretical, and he was placed under house arrest. His greatest scientific works included *Two New Sciences* about kinetics and the strength of materials.

[Aristotle](https://www.biographyonline.net/scientists/aristotle.html) (384 BC – 322 BC)

Greek philosopher and polymath

who made extensive studies into the world around us. He was widely regarded as the greatest of the ancient thinkers and his extensive studies and writings had a lasting impact on science, philosophy and an approach based on reason and logical thinking. Whilst many of his teachings have been superseded – for over a 1,000 years his writings formed an important basis of western and Islamic culture.

**Moses** (1391–1271 BC)

An Egyptian prince

who became the leader and prophet of the Jewish people – taking them from slavery in Egypt across the Red Sea to Mount Sinai. On Mount Sinai, Moses received the Ten Commandments, which form an important basis of the Old Testament and the Torah.

[Karl Marx](https://www.biographyonline.net/writers/karl-marx.html)(1818 - 1883)

 German Communist philosopher.

who laid a theoretical framework for Communism – a radical alternative to capitalist society. With his collaborator Frederich Engels, he wrote the best selling “Communist Manifesto” (1848) which sought to ferment Communist revolution around the world. Marx had a powerful influence over the ideological

[Michelangelo](https://www.biographyonline.net/artists/michelangelo.html)(1475 – 1564)

Renaissance sculptor and architect

One of the most influential Western artists of all time, he is famous for his Statue of David, The Pieta and the great paintings of the Sistine Chapel, The Vatican.

[William Shakespeare](https://www.biographyonline.net/poets/william_shakespeare.html) (1564- 1616)

English poet and playwright.

Shakespeare is widely considered to be the greatest writer in the English language. He wrote 38 plays and 154 sonnets.