

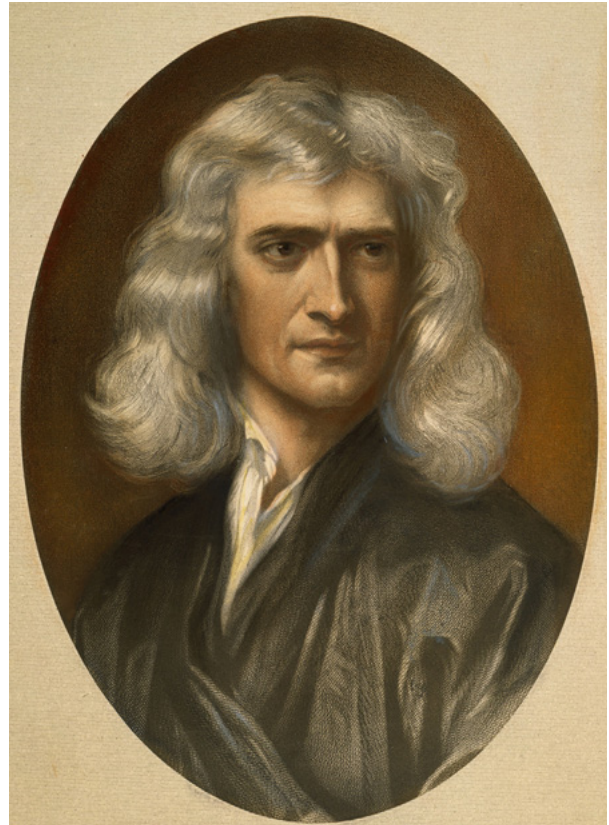
Biography Activity

The Enlightenment and Revolutions

Isaac Newton (1643–1727)

Isaac Newton, an English mathematician and physicist, was born into a farm family. He eventually attended Trinity College of Cambridge University, where he immersed himself in the writings of Copernicus, Kepler Galileo, and Descartes. Newton continued developing Galileo's idea of a mathematical science of motion, and he brought Galileo's work to full fruition. By the age of 27, he had developed calculus and was the top mathematician in Europe. In 1687, Newton published *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy* (usually referred to as *Principia*). This book is considered one of the great masterpieces of science. In it, Newton lays out laws of motion and of gravitation. Newton was confident that he could explain the physical world through mathematics.

More About the Image: This engraving of Sir Isaac Newton is from the nineteenth century.



- 1. Drawing Inferences** How do you think the works of Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, and Descartes affected Isaac Newton?

- 2. Drawing Conclusions** The work of the physicist Albert Einstein in the twentieth century expanded on Newton's laws of motion. What does this tell you about the lasting effects of the Scientific Revolution?
