

Physical Science Readers: **Isaac Newton and the Laws of the Universe**

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Let Newton Be!

Imagine a world where nobody understands why the moon goes round the earth, or why the earth goes round the sun. Imagine that they don't know why things fall downward when dropped, and why they stay where they're placed. Imagine that nobody knows what makes a rainbow. Imagine a world without cars, airplanes, television, or computers. That was the world before Isaac Newton.



↓ Newton was born and grew up in the countryside.

↑ Isaac Newton



On January 4, 1643, in the county of Lincolnshire in England, Isaac Newton was born. He arrived much too early and was very small. No one expected him to live. But he did. His mother said he was so small he could fit inside a quart mug.

Newton's father was a farmer. Sadly, he died a few months before his son was born. When Newton was two years old, his mother remarried. She went to live with her new husband. She did not take her young son with her. Newton's stepfather would not let her take him. She left her son in the care of his grandmother. She and her new husband had three more children.

Newton was without his mother until the age of ten. At that time, his stepfather died. His mother and her children returned home to be with Newton.



Birthday

Newton's birthday is January 4, 1643, if using the calendar we use today. But in Newton's time, a different calendar was used. According to that calendar, he was born on December 25, 1642, which is Christmas Day.

