

A l b e r t
E i n s t e i n

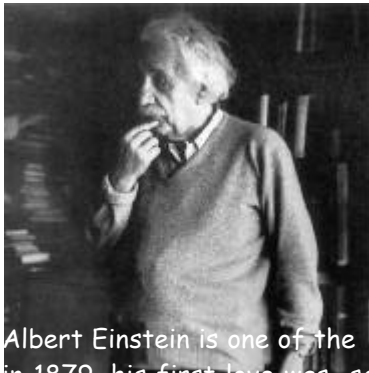
SNAPSHOT OF A LIFE

FACTFILE

NAME: Albert Einstein
NATIONALITY: German
DATES: 1879-1955
WORK: Scientist and Humanist
ACHIEVEMENTS: Theory of relativity, principle of equivalence

KEY EVENTS:

Major contribution to quantum theory
1901-1902 completed his first scientific paper.
1905 completed papers on light quanta: Brownian motion and special theory of relativity.
1907 discovered the principle of equivalence.
1915 completed logical structure of the general theory of relativity.
1917 wrote first paper on cosmology.
1921 won the Nobel prize for physics.
1922 completed first paper on unified field theory.
1933 intensive activity on behalf of pacifism.
1947 intensive activity on behalf of disarmament and world government



Albert Einstein is one of the most fascinating and influential figures of the modern era. He was born in 1879, his first love was science, but he always found time to devote tireless efforts to political causes close to his heart. His humanism led him to strive for peace, freedom and social justice. When he was young, he fought the authoritarianism and militarism of German education and the brutality of the First World War. These things served to confirm Einstein's pacifist and internationalist convictions. He was a physicist and he radically transformed our understanding of the Universe. His contribution to modern physics is simply unique. His theories spanned the fundamental questions of nature, from the very large to the very small, from the cosmos to sub-atomic particles and he overturned the established concepts of time and space, energy and matter. Yet, Einstein was not an abstract thinker, but he translated the world into words and equations that could be understood by the others.

In 1921 he won the Nobel prize for Physics. In 1920 he became an active leader of the international anti-war movement and he advocated a distinctive moral role for the Jewish people. He began to support the principles of the European democracies against the threat of Nazism.

In this contest he wrote his famous letter to U.S. President Roosevelt in which he urged him to initiate an American nuclear research programme.

But with the onset of the atomic era, Einstein realised that nuclear weapons were a profound risk to humanity and could bring an end to civilization.