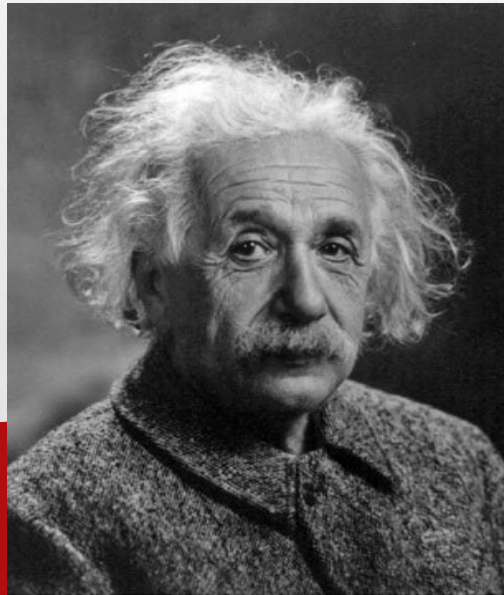


A TRULY BEAUTIFUL MIND



Albert Einstein

ALBERT EINSTEIN

- This chapter is about Albert Einstein. He was a great scientist. The title of the chapter 'A Truly Beautiful Mind' refers to Albert Einstein. This is a short biography of his where some of his qualities have been highlighted – Albert's interest in Mathematics and Physics and also his humanitarian attribute. The title - 'A Truly Beautiful Mind' makes one wonder that how can a scientist's mind be beautiful. It is so, because in this lesson we come across another aspect of Einstein. He was a humanitarian. He advocated world peace, non - violence and that is why the title refers to him as A truly beautiful mind.

- Albert Einstein was born on March 14, 1879, in the German city of Ulm. Till the age of two and half years, he could not speak and when he started speaking, he spoke every word twice. His playmates considered him to be boring and his mother thought that he was crazy because of the abnormally large size of his head. At school, his head master regarded him as stupid and good for nothing. But he proved them all wrong. At the age of 6, at the insistence of his mother, he learned to play the violin. He became a gifted violinist.

- At the age of 15, his family shifted to Munich. He did not feel comfortable with the strict discipline of the school and left it. On completing his schooling, he joined the University at Zurich because the atmosphere there was more liberal and accepted new ideas and concepts. He showed more interest in Physics and Mathematics. He met a fellow student, Mileva Maric at the university. She was equally intelligent and clever. Later on, they married and had two sons but unfortunately their marriage did not survive and they divorced in 1919.

- After completing his education, Albert worked as a technical expert in the patent office at Bern. Here, he worked secretly on his idea of Relativity. In 1915, he published his paper on special theory of relativity, followed by the world-famous equation $E = mc^2$.

- In 1915, he published his paper on general theory of relativity, which gave an absolutely new definition to the concept of gravity. This theory made him a famous figure. In 1919, during the solar eclipse, his theory came out to be accurate and revolutionized physics. In 1933, he emigrated to USA as nazis had come to power in Germany. He did not want his finding and research to be used for destruction. In 1938, when Germany discovered the principle of nuclear fission, he was the first person to write to the American President about the dangers of the atomic bombs. In 1945, when America dropped the atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, he was deeply hurt and wrote to the united nations for the formation of a world government to prevent recurrence of such destruction.
- He spent his later days in politics advocating world peace and democracy. He died at the age of 76 in the year 1955.