

# Isaac Newton, the Royal Society, and the Birth of the Modern World

Isaac Newton was one of the most influential scientists of all time. His work on gravity, motion, and calculus laid the foundation for the modern scientific revolution. The Royal Society was founded in 1660 as a group of like-minded scientists who shared Newton's passion for experimentation and discovery. Together, Newton and the Royal Society helped to usher in a new era of scientific inquiry that would change the world forever.



## The Clockwork Universe: Isaac Newton, the Royal Society, and the Birth of the Modern World: Isaac Newton, Royal Society, and the Birth of the Modern World by Edward Dolnick

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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## Newton's Early Life and Education

Isaac Newton was born on January 4, 1643, in Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire, England. His father, also named Isaac Newton, was a farmer who died before Newton was born. His mother, Hannah Ayscough, remarried a few

years later, and Newton was raised by his stepfather, Barnabas Smith. Newton was a sickly child, and he was often bullied by his classmates. However, he showed an early aptitude for mathematics and science.

In 1661, Newton entered Trinity College, Cambridge. He graduated in 1665 with a degree in mathematics. After graduating, Newton remained at Trinity as a fellow. He began to develop his theories on gravity and motion during this time. In 1687, Newton published his masterpiece, *Principia Mathematica*. This work revolutionized the understanding of physics and astronomy.

## **The Royal Society**

The Royal Society was founded in 1660 by a group of scientists who were interested in promoting experimental science. The society's motto was "Nullius in verba," which means "Take nobody's word for it." This motto reflected the society's commitment to empiricism, or the idea that all knowledge should be based on observation and experiment.

Newton was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1672. He served as president of the society from 1703 to 1727. During his time as president, Newton helped to transform the Royal Society into one of the most prestigious scientific institutions in the world.

## **Newton's Contributions to Science**

Newton made many important contributions to science, including:

- The law of universal gravitation: Newton discovered that the force of gravity is a universal force that attracts all objects with mass. This law

explained the motion of the planets around the sun and the moon around the Earth.

- The laws of motion: Newton developed three laws of motion that describe how objects move. These laws are still used today to describe the motion of everything from cars to planets.
- Calculus: Newton developed calculus, a branch of mathematics that is used to solve problems involving motion and change. Calculus is now used in many different fields, including physics, engineering, and economics.

## **Newton's Legacy**

Newton's work had a profound impact on the development of science. His laws of motion and gravity revolutionized the understanding of physics and astronomy. His work on calculus laid the foundation for the development of modern mathematics. Newton's work continues to be studied and used by scientists and engineers today.

Newton was a brilliant scientist and a gifted mathematician. He was also a humble and devout man. He once said, "I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."

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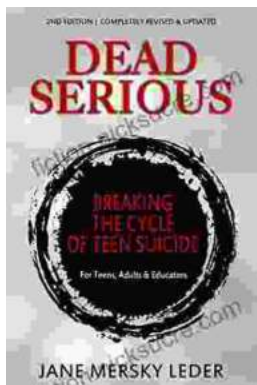


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