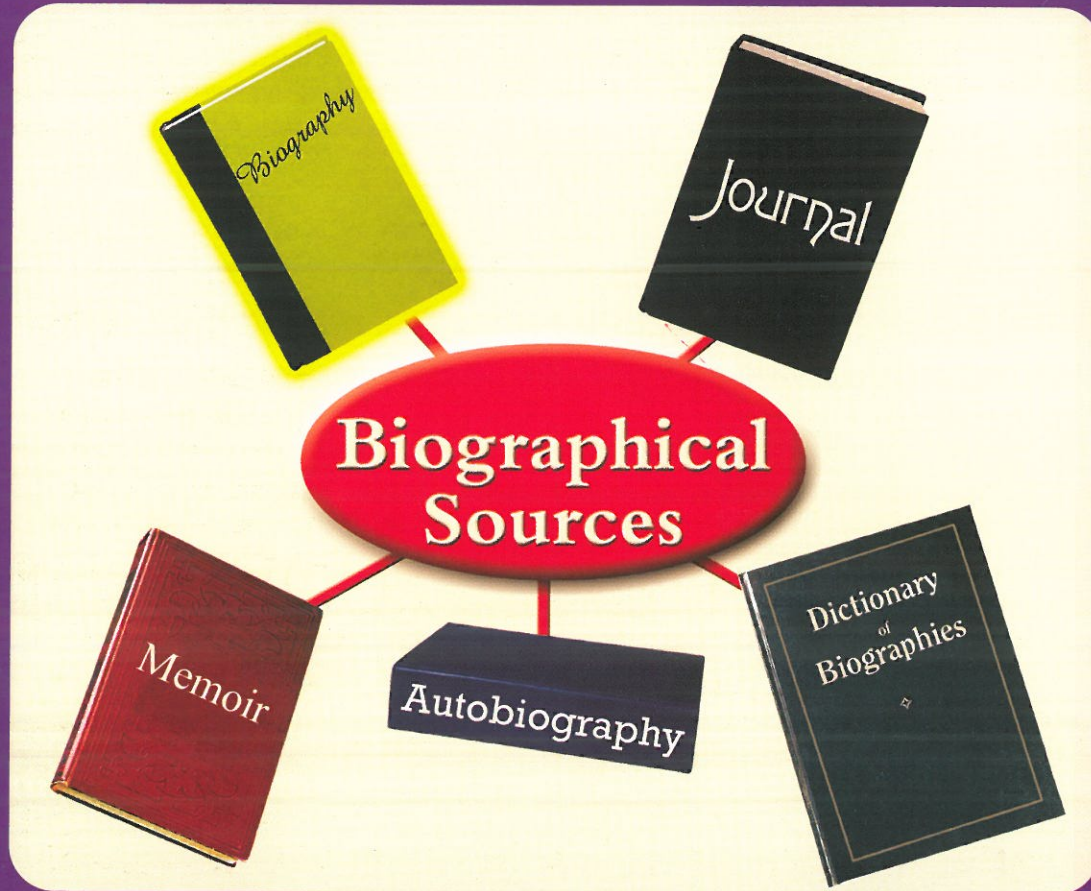


GENRE STUDY

Biographical Sources

The purpose of **biographical sources** is to give information about people's lives.



We read different biographical sources for different reasons. For example, if you want to read the story of someone's life, read a **biography**. If you want to read one person's account of his or her own life, read that person's **autobiography**. Journals and memoirs are forms of autobiographies.

A Biography of Albert Einstein

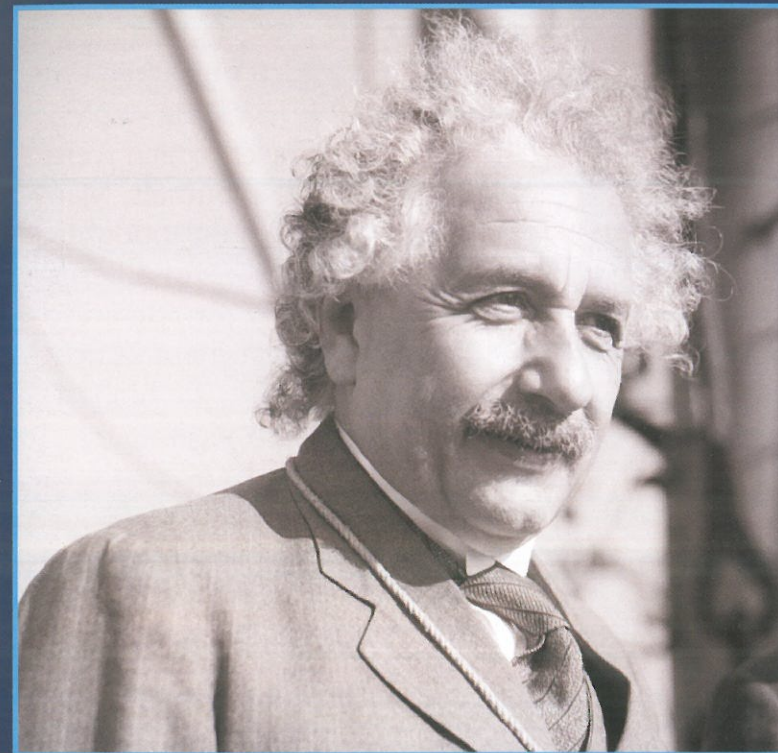
The **title** identifies the person.

1879–1955

Dates tell when important events occurred, such as birth and death.

Photographs show the person, an event, or an important place in the person's life.

Text has details about the person's life.



Albert Einstein

Albert Einstein is considered one of the greatest scientists ever to have lived. During his lifetime, he contributed scientific ideas that changed the world's way of thinking.

He was especially interested in physics, the science of energy and matter. He received the Nobel Prize for physics in 1921. Throughout his long career, Einstein remained a leader in scientific thought.

Albert Einstein was born on March 14, 1879 in Ulm, Germany. His parents, Pauline and Hermann Einstein, were German Jews. Six weeks after Albert's birth, the family moved to Munich.

At the age of six, Albert began to learn violin and he also started school. Albert did not like the discipline of school. Throughout his schooling, he liked to think creatively instead of learning by repetition. He wanted to learn about how the universe worked.



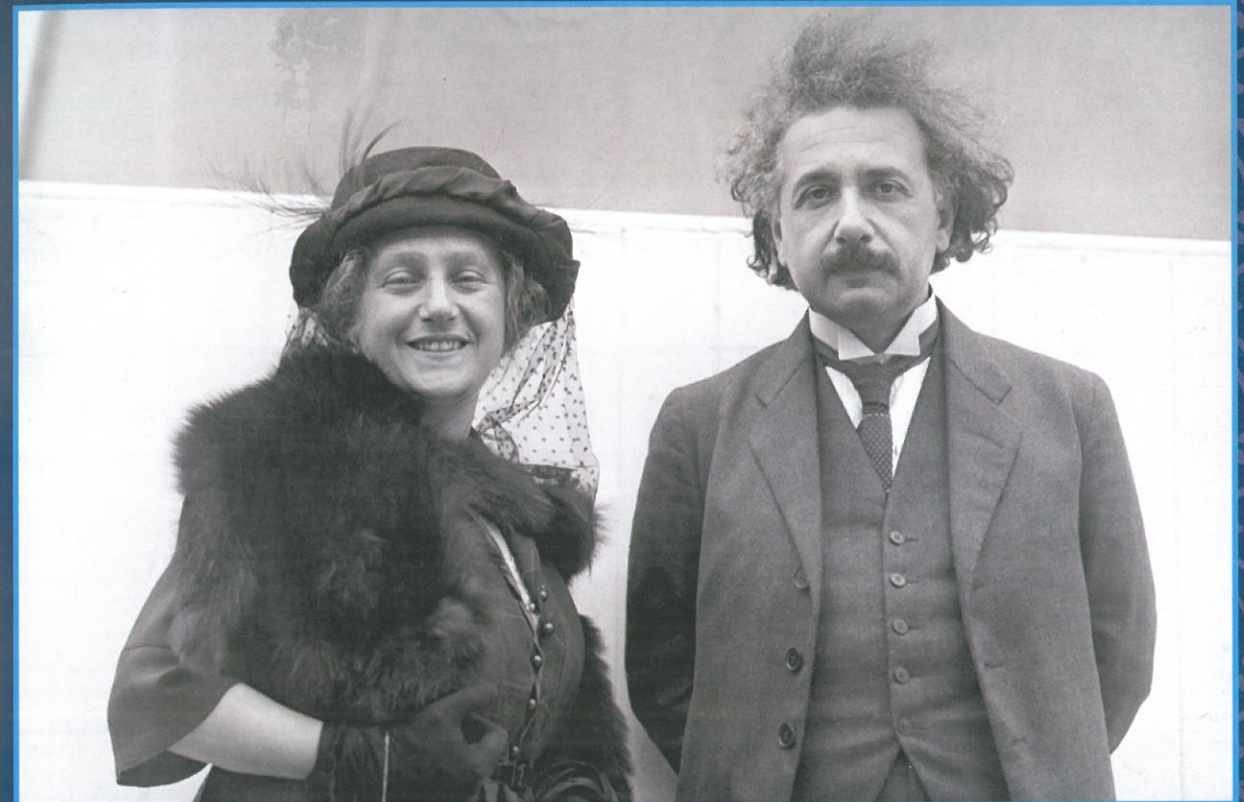
Albert Einstein, age eight

After finishing his education, Einstein wanted to become a teacher of mathematics and physics. By this time, he was living in Switzerland. However, he could not find work as a teacher or researcher, so he worked in the patent office in Bern, Switzerland. At the patent office people received licenses that registered their ideas and inventions as their own property. No one else could use these ideas or inventions without permission.

Einstein spent much of his free time thinking about physics. He wrote papers on the subject, which were published in science journals. Many scientists read these and thought they were brilliant. One of Albert's scientific papers was considered so good that the University of Zurich gave him a doctorate, the highest degree a person can receive.

Einstein continued to write papers and also began to speak out against war and violence, something he felt strongly about all his life. In 1901, he became a citizen of Switzerland.

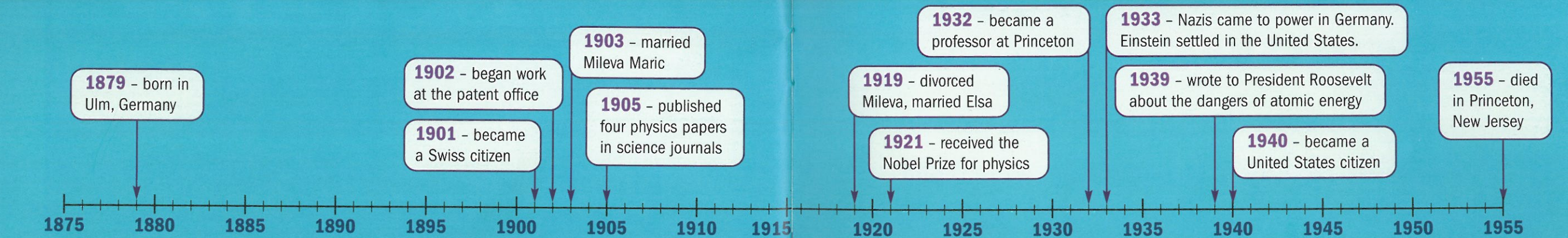
In 1903, Albert Einstein married Mileva Maric, who had also studied physics. They had three children together. However, their marriage ended in 1919. That same year, Einstein married his cousin, Elsa Löwenthal.



Elsa and Albert Einstein

Timeline of Albert Einstein's Life

A **timeline** shows key events in the person's life.



Einstein was becoming increasingly well known as a scientific thinker. In the years that followed, he taught at universities in Zurich, Prague, and finally Berlin. In Berlin he was offered such a good job he could not turn it down, even though he did not want to live in Germany again.

Einstein's dislike of Hitler and his Nazi Party was strong. In 1933, when Hitler came to power, the Nazis seized Einstein's house and property in Germany. He was accused of having an "un-German" spirit. His books, along with those written by many other people, were publicly burned.

When his property was seized, Einstein was in the United States. He spent seven months each year teaching at Princeton University in New Jersey. He decided not to return to Germany. In fact, he never set foot in Germany again.

For some time, teachers and professors in Germany were not permitted to mention Einstein's name in relation to his work. This was because he was Jewish, outspoken against Nazism, and considered an enemy of the German government. Einstein toured other parts of Europe, speaking out against Nazism, and explaining what was happening in Germany.

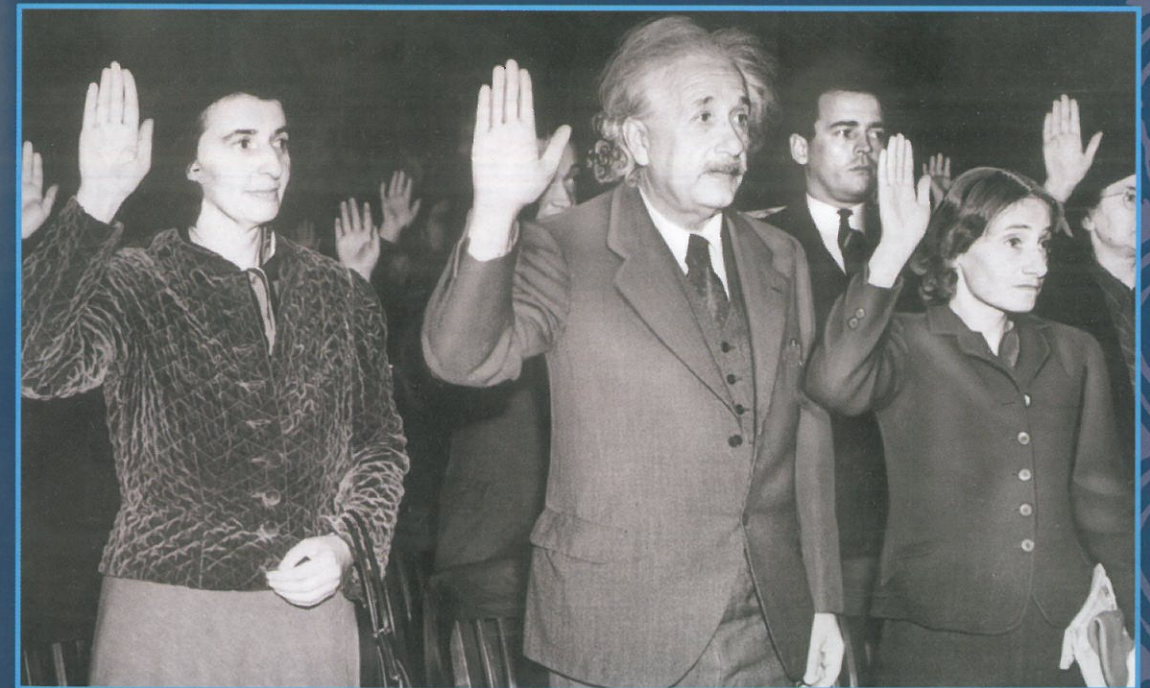


Albert Einstein speaking in London, England

With Elsa, Einstein made a new home in the United States, at Princeton in New Jersey. Around this time, Einstein realized that American scientists were capable of developing an atomic bomb. He was so horrified by the idea of this that he wrote a letter to President Roosevelt. He explained his concerns about the terrible dangers of atomic energy, but also mentioned that German scientists might already be at work on the bomb. However, rather than preventing the development of the atomic bomb, Einstein's letter prompted the government to begin the Manhattan Project. The Manhattan Project developed atomic weapons, which Einstein hated.

In 1936, Elsa died. Albert Einstein's sister Maja came to live with him until her death in 1951.

In 1940, Einstein became a citizen of the United States, while keeping his Swiss citizenship. This meant that he had the right to live in the United States and in Switzerland. He continued to campaign for world peace. He was offered the presidency of Israel but did not accept, as he felt that he could not do the job well enough. However, he continued to fight for the Jewish cause.



Albert Einstein taking the oath of United States citizenship

Aside from his work, Einstein found time to continue playing his violin. Eventually he became an accomplished violinist. He particularly loved the music of composers Bach and Mozart. Einstein also loved to sail, and it was often while sailing that he came up with new ideas or solved problems. Einstein's elder son, Hans Albert, became a noted science professor at the University of California, Berkeley. Like his father, he also loved sailing.

In January 2000, *Time* magazine named Einstein "Person of the Century." He was considered to be the greatest mind of the twentieth century, and his name has become a synonym for genius. He was also the best-known refugee from Nazism and one of its strongest critics. When he died in 1955 at age 76, Albert Einstein was mourned as one of the world's greatest thinkers and also as a fighter for peace and freedom.



Albert Einstein with his grandson Bernhard and his son Hans Albert in 1936



Apply the Key Concepts



Key Concept 1 People choose to immigrate for many different reasons.

Activity

Think about the reasons German-Jewish immigrants came to the United States. Create a two-column cause and effect chart. In the first column, list the causes of problems that led the Jews to leave Germany. In the second column, list the effect of each problem.

Cause	Effect
anti-Semitism	persecution



Key Concept 2 People who immigrate face many challenges.

Activity

Imagine you are a German-Jewish immigrant who arrived in the United States in the 1930s. Write a letter to a friend who is planning to immigrate to the United States from Germany. Explain the challenges you have faced since immigrating and offer advice to help the person know what to expect.

Dear Anna,
I arrived in the United States one month ago...



Key Concept 3 People who immigrate contribute to the life and culture of the society they join.

Activity

Think of some of the contributions made by German-Jewish immigrants. How did they help American society? Draw a word web and name the major contributions.

