

1. Sir Isaac Newton was contemplating the universe in his garden one day in 1665 when he noticed an apple fall from a tree. Newton wondered to himself, “Why should the apple always fall to the ground? Why does it not go sideways or upwards but directly toward the Earth’s center?” After much contemplation Newton concluded that objects are pulled to the Earth through a force that he called *gravity*, which means heaviness in Latin. On July 5th, 1687 Newton formally expressed his law of universal gravitation in series of books called *The Principia*.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

2. In the summer of 1939, a few months before World War II started, Albert Einstein and a group of Hungarian scientists wrote to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In this letter they warned Roosevelt that the Nazi’s were conducting atomic research and that the consequences would be dire if the Nazis were to win the race to build an atom bomb. They recommended that U.S. become involved in uranium research. As a result of this letter, the U.S. joined the atomic race and poured billions of dollars into the development of weaponry. The U.S. won the race and became the first country to build an atomic bomb. The bomb was then used in Japan, killing hundreds of thousands of civilians. In 1954, a year before his death, Einstein would refer to the moment that he signed the letter to President Roosevelt as the greatest mistake of his life.

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3. For most of human history, people thought that the Earth was the center of the universe. Nicolaus Copernicus changed how people understood the universe when he theorized that it was heliocentric, or sun-centered. Interestingly, Copernicus had most of this theory worked out some time before 1514, and his work was fully articulated by 1532, yet publication of this text was not completed until 1543 as he lay dying. Some scholars believe that Copernicus delayed publishing this work because it contradicted the Catholic Church’s view that the Earth was at the center of the universe. Copernicus’s may have been smart in doing so because the Church did not formally accept his view of the universe until 1822, almost 300 years later.

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