

# Isaac Newton and Physics for Kids: His Life and Ideas with 21 Activities (For Kids series)

*Kerrie Logan Hollihan*

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## Isaac Newton and Physics for Kids: His Life and Ideas with 21 Activities (For Kids series) Details

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# From Reader Review Isaac Newton and Physics for Kids: His Life and Ideas with 21 Activities (For Kids series) for online ebook

## Jill says

In debates about “who was the greatest scientist who ever lived,” the outcome does not always favor Albert Einstein; rather, opinion is generally split between him and Isaac Newton.

Newton was born in England on Christmas Day in 1642, the same year that Galileo Galilei died in Italy. This book tells us about Newton’s childhood and years of study, but most of the focus is on his later intellectual achievements. His seminal book, *The Principia Mathematica*, outlined his theories of calculus, the three laws of motion, and universal gravitation. He also revolutionized the design of the telescope and the study of optics. He took over Britain’s Royal Mint and stabilized its currency. He even served in Parliament for a time.

Behind the scenes, he devoted years to the secret study of alchemy, an art forbidden by the Church. The goal of alchemy was to figure out how to turn base metals into precious ones, as well as to find a magical product called “the philosopher’s stone” which would allegedly provide the key to eternal life.

As for what Newton was like as a man, he was known for being moody, jealous, and egotistical, and for having a fierce, unforgiving temper. He was probably paranoid and possibly gay.

But mostly, this book eschews the gossip about Newton’s personal life in favor of highlighting his eye-popping intellectual achievements. Newton not only *asked* himself questions, such as “why do things always fall down?” but he made it his life’s work to find answers to them.

**Discussion:** I love so many aspects of this series of books for kids from the Chicago Review Press. Most of all, they don’t shy away from giving a complete picture of the life of the person being profiled, warts and all. They demonstrate it is possible to applaud the accomplishments of acclaimed figures in history while at the same time admitting to more regrettable aspects of their lives. They understand that to eschew deification is not to question the achievements of a person, but rather suggests that even “mortals” may effect great changes in history.

The series also contains fascinating information about the contemporaries of the person being profiled.

A third great feature of this series is the inclusion of activities that not only relate to the subject, but tie together different aspects of learning, from language arts to science to architecture, etc.

Some of the 21 activities in this book include instructions for the following:

- charting phases of the moon
- making a pendulum
- how to make a water clock and a candle clock and compare their accuracy
- making a prism
- demonstrating the principle of the inverse square law
- how to grow a crystal garden
- experiments that demonstrate each of Newton’s three laws of motion
- baking an apple pie in the style of Newton’s time

The book also features a time line, glossary, annotated list of internet resources, bibliography, and index.

**Evaluation:** This series of books from the Chicago Review Press for kids (but also older readers) is outstanding. Each provides a comprehensive and accessible overview of the subject matter, adds fun and informative activities, and treats history as it should be treated: without misleading filters that glamorize and/or obfuscate the truth.

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### **Rob says**

I liked that it had activities you could do for fun. I thought it was interesting that he survived the plague.

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### **Brayton says**

I didn't like that he was a servant in the school because his mom did not have enough money. Isaac Newtons step father did not want to have anything to do with him. I thought the experiments in the book looked cool.

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### **Chadi Raheb says**

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### **Diana Jenkins says**

Kerrie Logan Hollihan has written an amazing book about a fascinating and complex man. She brings Newton to life and makes his ideas accessible to young readers. Excellent visuals and fun activities add to this already rich work, making the book a great resource for teachers, parents, and home-schoolers!

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### **Carrie says**

Well written with several experiments to help kids grasp some of the content being given.

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### **C Boyd says**

Enjoyed this great life story summary so much I read others in the serious.. and at 40 I certainly don't feel like this is only for kids!

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## **Mrs Robin says**

This book is an informative and interesting read. It starts off with Isaac's childhood and ends with his death. His childhood was tragic. His father, who Isaac was named after, died when his mother was six months with child. She then remarried a wealthy man. But the deal wasn't smooth. In order to marry this wealthy man she had to leave Isaac behind with his grandparents. At this time Isaac was 3. Hannah, his mother, did not return until Isaac was 10. When she did return she had three new children. Isaac was with his mother a short two years before heading off to school. Out of 12 years he was with his mother five. Despite her abstinence he remained committed to her. He even gave her medicine when she was ill. Keep his tragic story in mind when reading about him. This effected him so much that he was awkward and withdrawn-my theory anyways. A parent's attention and affection means so much.

In the book, your child will learn about prisms, Isaac's theory on the color white (which is quite interesting as now we are told that about the color black), pendulums, the beginning of Isaac's journal keeping such as where he got his first journal and what he named it. What good is a book on Isaac Newton if it doesn't teach on his most famous topics such as Newton's three laws, matter, mass, and gravity just to name a few. There are 21 activities and experiments to do such as making your own science journal, making and comparing water and candle clocks, and making a prism. You'll also notice the difference in old English and modern English with an example of the word tub. In Isaac Newton's list of sins he says, "swimming in a immel [tub] on thy day." Another interesting word is what Newton originally called calculus.

Newton made a lot of discoveries but he was far from a saint. He battled depression and wrote nasty letters to folks. I do think Christian parents would be wise to study Newton along side their children. This is an excellent book that teaches history, not just on Newton but other famous folks who are discussed in the book as well, though Newton is the star. It has quite a list of learning activities to drive home what is being taught. There are illustrations and pictures throughout the book that make for a great visual aid. The layout is well done. As I said Newton was a man who made quite a few scientific discoveries but he was also a troubled man, in my opinion and needs to be studied with care. I do have to mention that there is a brief, as in one sentence, part where it is speculated that Isaac might have been more than just buddies with a few male friends.

I recieved a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review.

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