



Summary

Discover the Life of an Inventor: Albert Einstein is a biography filled with facts about the life and accomplishments of Albert Einstein.

Vocabulary		Comprehension Strategy	Genre Study	Text Features	
compass	magnet	Connect text to self using prior knowledge Summarize information	Text structure: order/sequence Use a variety of supporting details Use a variety of informational text features	table of contents	headings
experiments	physics			photographs	captions
genius	relativity			bold glossary words	timelines
gravity	scientist			glossary	index
				further reading	web sites

Standards: Science and Social Studies

- Knows that problem solving ability is a skill possessed by many historical figures
- Knows about technological inventions and developments that evolved during the 19th century and the influence of these changes on the lives of workers
- Knows the accomplishments of major scientists and inventors (e.g., George Washington Carver, Galileo, Marie Curie, Louis Pasteur, Alexander Graham Bell)

Kendall, J. S., & Marzano, R. J. (2004). *Content knowledge: A compendium of standards and benchmarks for K-12 education*. Aurora, CO: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). Online database: www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/

Discussion Prompts Prior to Independent Reading

Vocabulary Building and Background Knowledge:

Read the title as students look at the cover. Ask students to talk about what they observe on the cover and what they already know about Albert Einstein. Scaffold a discussion that builds on the background knowledge of students. Introduce students to the vocabulary words by having them look at the glossary on page 23.

Discussion questions:

- Read page 5. What do you think the word *genius* means from the context clues?
- Read page 9. How are a *compass* and a *magnet* related?
- Read the definition for *gravity*. Do you know of a place that has less *gravity* than we have on Earth?

Genre Study and Text Features:

State that **Discover the Life of an Inventor: Albert Einstein** is a biography that is written in the order of Albert Einstein's life and

accomplishments. Ask students to look at pages 4 and 5. Point out that each page starts with a main idea and then provides further information in the text and captions. Highlight genre characteristics and text features that will support students in reading the text.

Highlight prompts:

- Look at the list entitled *Important Dates to Remember* on page 22 of your book. Why are timelines important in a biography? Skim and scan the book to see if there are any other timelines.
- One important characteristic of a biography is that it tells the major contributions and accomplishments of a special person. Skim and scan the book to find examples of how the author included Einstein's contributions to the science world and the ways he was rewarded for them.

Reading the Book:

Have students read the book independently or with a partner.

Comprehension Questions

After students have completed reading **Discover the Life of an Inventor: Albert Einstein** gather students together for a discussion based on the questions below or assign students to answer the questions independently or with a partner.

- What significant contributions to science did Albert Einstein make and how was he rewarded?
- What do you think it means to be a genius? What made Einstein different from other scientists?
- Why do you think that Einstein's teachers did not think he was as smart as he truly was?

BLM: Extension Activity

Students apply their knowledge of the characteristics of the biography genre by using the graphic organizer to plan a biography about a classmate or family member.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Discover the Life of an Inventor: Albert Einstein

Name: _____

Date: _____

Planning a Biography

Directions: Interview one of your classmates or family members to gather information about them. Then use the graphic organizer as a planning tool for a biography about this person.

Full Name and Important Dates (timeline)	
Special Talents, Personality Traits	
Achievements	
Obstacles to Overcome	
Quote (what this person says)	