

# Foundations of Physical Science: Historical Discoveries

Physical Science · Practice Test · 10 Questions

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**1. Who is famously credited with discovering the law of universal gravitation, a foundational concept in physics?**

- A) Galileo Galilei
- B) Isaac Newton
- C) Albert Einstein
- D) Nicolaus Copernicus

**2. Which ancient Greek philosopher is often considered the 'father of western philosophy' and made significant contributions to early ideas about matter?**

- A) Aristotle
- B) Plato
- C) Socrates
- D) Epicurus

**3. What element did Marie Curie discover, becoming the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the only person to win Nobel Prizes in two different scientific fields?**

- A) Oxygen
- B) Hydrogen
- C) Radium
- D) Uranium

**4. The discovery of the electron is attributed to which British physicist in 1897?**

- A) Ernest Rutherford
- B) Niels Bohr
- C) J.J. Thomson
- D) Max Planck

**5. Which Italian astronomer and physicist is known for his telescopic observations supporting the heliocentric model of the solar system and his experiments with falling objects?**

- A) Johannes Kepler
- B) Galileo Galilei
- C) Tycho Brahe
- D) Copernicus

**6. Who developed the theory of relativity, fundamentally changing our understanding of space, time, gravity, and the universe?**

- A) Isaac Newton
- B) Max Planck
- C) Albert Einstein
- D) Werner Heisenberg

**7. In what year did the first successful controlled nuclear chain reaction occur, a major event in the development of nuclear physics?**

- A) 1939
- B) 1942
- C) 1945
- D) 1951

**8. Which scientist is credited with the discovery of radioactivity in uranium salts in 1896?**

- A) Marie Curie
- B) Henri Becquerel
- C) Pierre Curie
- D) Ernest Rutherford

**9. Who proposed the existence of the atom as the smallest indivisible unit of matter in ancient Greece, a concept later refined by modern science?**

- A) Aristotle
- B) Democritus
- C) Plato
- D) Empedocles

**10. What fundamental force of nature did Michael Faraday make significant contributions to understanding through his experiments with electromagnetism?**

- A) Gravity
- B) Strong Nuclear Force
- C) Electromagnetism
- D) Weak Nuclear Force