

# Contents at a Glance

<b><i>Introduction</i></b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b><i>Part I: A Genius Awakens</i></b> .....	<b>5</b>
Chapter 1: Who Was Einstein? .....	7
Chapter 2: Portrait of the Scientist as a Young Man .....	17
Chapter 3: 1905: Einstein's Miracle Year .....	37
<b><i>Part II: On the Shoulders of Giants: What Einstein Learned in School</i></b> .....	<b>47</b>
Chapter 4: A Clockwork Universe .....	49
Chapter 5: The Arrow of Time .....	69
Chapter 6: Einstein's Most Fascinating Subject .....	81
Chapter 7: And There Was Light .....	97
<b><i>Part III: The Special Theory of Relativity</i></b> .....	<b>111</b>
Chapter 8: Relativity Before Einstein .....	113
Chapter 9: Riding on a Beam of Light .....	123
Chapter 10: Clocks, Trains, and Automobiles: Exploring Space and Time .....	135
Chapter 11: The Equation .....	147
<b><i>Part IV: The General Theory of Relativity</i></b> .....	<b>161</b>
Chapter 12: Einstein's Second Theory of Relativity .....	163
Chapter 13: "Black Holes Ain't So Black" .....	187
Chapter 14: Was Einstein Right about Relativity? .....	211
<b><i>Part V: The Quantum and the Universe</i></b> .....	<b>229</b>
Chapter 15: Atoms Before Einstein .....	231
Chapter 16: Quantum Leap: God Plays Dice .....	247
Chapter 17: Einstein and the Bomb .....	269
Chapter 18: Einstein's Greatest Blunder .....	289
Chapter 19: Not a Blunder After All .....	303

<b><i>Part VI: The Part of Tens</i></b> .....	<b>319</b>
Chapter 20: Ten Insights into Einstein's Beliefs on Religion and Philosophy .....	321
Chapter 21: Ten Women Who Influenced Einstein .....	329
<b><i>Appendix A: Glossary</i></b> .....	<b>339</b>
<b><i>Appendix B: Einstein Timeline</i></b> .....	<b>343</b>
<b><i>Index</i></b> .....	<b>349</b>

# Table of Contents

.....

## ***Introduction* ..... 1**

About This Book .....	1
What You're Not to Read .....	2
Foolish Assumptions .....	2
How This Book Is Organized .....	2
Part I: A Genius Awakens .....	3
Part II: On the Shoulders of Giants: What Einstein Learned in School .....	3
Part III: The Special Theory of Relativity .....	3
Part IV: The General Theory of Relativity .....	3
Part V: The Quantum and the Universe .....	4
Part VI: The Part of Tens .....	4
Icons Used in This Book .....	4

## ***Part 1: A Genius Awakens* ..... 5**

### **Chapter 1: Who Was Einstein? ..... 7**

Dissecting That Famous Brain .....	7
Touring Einstein's Life .....	8
Recognizing his own gifts .....	8
Surviving professional disappointment .....	8
Becoming famous .....	9
Lacking fortune .....	9
Playing peaceful politics .....	10
Working and playing .....	10
Appreciating His Contributions .....	11
The special theory of relativity .....	11
$E = mc^2$ .....	12
Quantum theory .....	13
The general theory of relativity .....	14
Other contributions .....	15
Standing in Awe .....	16

### **Chapter 2: Portrait of the Scientist as a Young Man ..... 17**

Glimpsing Albert's Early Years .....	17
Being slow to speak .....	18
Heading to the top of the class .....	19

Going backward in Greek .....	20
Studying holy geometry .....	21
Discovering religion .....	22
Learning on his own .....	22
Dropping Out of High School .....	23
Hiking across Italy .....	23
Failing the college admission test .....	24
Spending a Great Year at a Swiss School .....	25
Falling into first love .....	25
Performing “thought experiments” .....	26
Staying at the top of the class .....	26
Becoming a College Rebel .....	27
Focusing on physics .....	27
Cramming for exams .....	28
Falling in Love Again .....	28
Finding an intellectual companion .....	29
Exchanging letters .....	30
Asserting His Independence .....	31
Butting heads .....	31
Getting his mind in shape .....	32
Spending time in Paradise .....	33
Measuring the ether wind .....	33
Writing his senior thesis .....	34
Taking final exams .....	35
Moving Forward .....	35
<b>Chapter 3: 1905: Einstein’s Miracle Year .....</b>	<b>37</b>
Searching for Work .....	37
The Botched-Up House of Physics .....	38
Considering the ultraviolet catastrophe .....	38
Struggling with absolute motion .....	39
Storming the Scientific World .....	40
Defining the nature of light .....	41
Eliminating the ether .....	42
Introducing $E = mc^2$ .....	43
Appreciating the two lesser papers .....	44
<b>Part II: On the Shoulders of Giants: What Einstein Learned in School .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Chapter 4: A Clockwork Universe .....</b>	<b>49</b>
Introducing the First Astronomers .....	49
Inventing science .....	50
Getting it right: The ancient Greeks .....	50

Shifting their position, unfortunately .....	51
Identifying “The Greatest” patterns .....	51
Sowing the Seeds of Physics .....	52
Discovering buoyancy .....	53
Imagining the atom .....	53
Battling with Mars: Later Astronomers .....	54
Committing heresy: Copernicus .....	54
Discovering planetary laws: Kepler .....	54
Inventing Modern Science: Galileo .....	56
Using the tools at his disposal .....	57
Creating the modern scientific method .....	58
Freeing his mind .....	59
Marveling at Newton’s Miracle Year .....	61
Failing as a farmer .....	61
Revealing his genius .....	61
Developing Newtonian Physics .....	62
Obeying the laws (of motion, that is) .....	62
Revealing Newton’s masterpiece .....	64
Sharing Genius: Newton and Einstein .....	66
A pair of loners .....	66
Two views of the universe .....	67
<b>Chapter 5: The Arrow of Time .....</b>	<b>69</b>
Identifying the Laws of Thermodynamics .....	69
Conserving energy at all costs: The first law .....	70
Mess, laws, and videotape: The second law .....	72
That’s cold! The third law .....	74
Getting picky: The zeroth law .....	75
Following the Arrow of Time .....	76
Running the movie backwards .....	76
Unpopping the cork: Statistical mechanics .....	77
Bringing Einstein into the Equation .....	78
<b>Chapter 6: Einstein’s Most Fascinating Subject .....</b>	<b>81</b>
Bringing Invisible Forces to Light .....	81
Feeling the sparks .....	82
Discovering opposing forces .....	83
Identifying Forces and Fields .....	85
Studying electric force .....	85
Defining electric fields .....	86
Examining magnetic fields .....	88
Sensing the Attraction Between Electricity and Magnetism .....	89
Failing a Demo, and Changing Science .....	90
Creating a Current .....	92
The Great Scot: Appreciating Maxwell .....	95
Creating T-shirt Equations .....	95

<b>Chapter 7: And There Was Light</b> .....	<b>97</b>
Trying to Measure the Speed of Light .....	97
Galileo: Hanging lanterns .....	98
Roemer: Timing a satellite .....	98
Proving Maxwell Right .....	100
Jumping sparks .....	101
Inventing the first radio .....	102
Making light .....	102
Identifying the electromagnetic spectrum .....	104
Creating a Theory of Colors .....	104
Drilling a hole in the shutters .....	104
Mixing colors .....	106
Pitting Particles Against Waves .....	107
Exhibiting distinct behaviors .....	107
Believing that light doesn't bend .....	107
Young: Showing that light is a wave .....	108

## ***Part III: The Special Theory of Relativity*** .....

<b>Chapter 8: Relativity Before Einstein</b> .....	<b>113</b>
Conducting the First Motion Experiments .....	113
Experiencing movement on board a ship .....	114
Bringing his ideas to Earth .....	115
Establishing the Principle of Relativity .....	116
Understanding that motion is relative .....	116
Riding the bullet train .....	117
Stating Galileo's principle of relativity .....	117
Creating Another Relativity .....	118
Integrating the laws of motion with the speed of light .....	119
Expressing the idea of contraction .....	119
Identifying the Man Who Almost Discovered Relativity .....	120
Thinking about elastic time .....	120
Expressing an unrealized hope .....	121
<b>Chapter 9: Riding on a Beam of Light</b> .....	<b>123</b>
Accounting for the Ether .....	123
Struggling with an Inconsistency .....	126
Discovering that you're moving .....	127
Focusing on electric fields .....	127
Being at rest in the universe .....	129
Siding with Galileo .....	129
Laying the Cornerstones of Relativity .....	129
Dispelling absolute motion .....	129
Struggling with the speed of light .....	130
You See, Light Always Travels at $c$ .....	132
Making Physics Beautiful .....	134

**Chapter 10: Clocks, Trains, and Automobiles:  
Exploring Space and Time ..... 135**

Your Time Is Not My Time .....135  
 Casting doubt on simultaneity .....136  
 Conducting a thought experiment .....136  
 Dilating Time .....137  
 Shortening Space .....139  
 Conducting a repair mission .....139  
 Having more time than you thought .....139  
 Understanding length contraction .....140  
 Deciding If It's All Real .....141  
 You're a muon! .....141  
 Slowing it down .....142  
 Speeding it up .....142  
 Mixing Space and Time .....144  
 Making Interstellar Travel Possible .....145

**Chapter 11: The Equation ..... 147**

Bringing Mass into the Equation .....147  
 Measuring our laziness .....148  
 Realizing that mass is relative .....149  
 Choosing  $c^2$  .....150  
 Formulating  $E = mc^2$  .....152  
 Questioning his own conclusions .....152  
 Running to gain mass .....153  
 Cutting a strong thread .....154  
 Introducing Professor Einstein .....156  
 Looking for a job again .....157  
 Cutting through red tape .....157  
 Facing politics in Zurich .....158  
 Learning to teach .....159

***Part IV: The General Theory of Relativity ..... 161***

**Chapter 12: Einstein's Second Theory of Relativity ..... 163**

"The Happiest Thought of My Life" .....163  
 Recognizing the limitations of special relativity .....164  
 Having a revolutionary thought .....164  
 Experiencing weightlessness .....164  
 Launching your own satellite .....165  
 Linking Acceleration in Space and on Earth .....167  
 Equating gravity with accelerated motion .....169  
 Measuring gravitational mass .....170  
 Bending light .....171

Taking a Quantum Break .....	172
Trying to Extend the Theory of Relativity .....	173
Going back to Zurich .....	173
Collaborating with an old friend .....	174
Meeting a friend in the fourth dimension .....	174
Treating space and time the same .....	175
Describing the coincidence of an event .....	176
Creating a New System of the World .....	176
Envisioning warped spacetime .....	177
Measuring the deflection of light .....	177
Explaining the orbit of Mercury .....	179
Aging more slowly .....	181
Becoming a Mainstream Celebrity .....	185
<b>Chapter 13: “Black Holes Ain’t So Black” .....</b>	<b>187</b>
Finding the Geometry of Spacetime from Einstein’s Field Equation .....	187
Measuring how spacetime warps .....	188
Developing Schwarzschild’s geometry .....	189
Formulating the Black Hole Idea .....	190
Trapping light .....	190
Predicting dark stars .....	191
Reintroducing the theory of black holes .....	192
Facing Einstein’s skepticism .....	194
Studying Collapsing Stars .....	195
Identifying other extreme stars .....	195
Theorizing the ultimate collapse .....	196
Reviving Interest in Black Holes .....	197
Calculating spacetime for rotating black holes .....	197
Discovering quasars and pulsars .....	197
Starting the Hunt .....	199
Understanding How the Universe Makes Black Holes .....	200
Giants .....	200
Supernovas .....	200
So, What Is a Black Hole Anyway? .....	201
Black holes have no hair .....	202
“Black holes ain’t so black” .....	203
Journey into a black hole .....	204
Contemplating Time Travel .....	205
Visiting the past .....	206
Exploring wormholes .....	206
Using a time machine .....	208
Prohibiting time loops .....	209
<b>Chapter 14: Was Einstein Right about Relativity? .....</b>	<b>211</b>
Conducting Early Tests of Relativity .....	212
Testing special relativity: Life extension .....	213
Getting younger by flying east: Relativistic time .....	214
Probing gravity: NASA’s first test of relativity .....	216

Confirming Gravity’s Effects on Light .....217  
     Calculating the sun’s impact .....218  
     Testing the time delay from Mars .....219  
 Making GPS Accurate .....220  
 Measuring the Curvature of Spacetime .....222  
     Spacetime drag: The universe in a bucket .....222  
     Embarking on the mission .....226  
 So, Was He Right? .....228

***Part V: The Quantum and the Universe .....229***

**Chapter 15: Atoms Before Einstein ..... 231**

Proving the Reality of Atoms .....232  
 Understanding Atoms with a Grain of Salt .....234  
     Figuring out why balloons pop .....234  
     Explaining elements .....234  
     Discovering electrons .....235  
     Envisioning plum pudding .....236  
 Probing the Atom .....237  
     Creating a new model .....240  
     Predicting an unrealized collapse .....241  
 Discovering Quanta .....241  
     Pitting theory against the real world .....243  
     Splitting energy bundles .....244  
 Exploring the Bohr Atom .....244  
     Kicking marbles on a staircase .....245  
     Needing a new physics .....246

**Chapter 16: Quantum Leap: God Plays Dice ..... 247**

Discovering the Quantum .....248  
     Revealing Einstein’s “revolutionary idea” .....248  
     Identifying quanta of various energies .....249  
     Solving the photoelectric effect .....252  
 Imagining Waves of Matter .....253  
     Finding a new way to count .....254  
     Measuring electron waves .....254  
 Discovering the New Mechanics of the Atom .....255  
     Studying the spectra of atoms .....256  
     Realizing the world is grainy .....257  
 Contemplating Wave Mechanics .....259  
     Doing the math .....260  
     Accepting the uncertainty principle .....260  
 Succumbing to the New Physics .....264  
     Einstein didn’t buy it .....264  
     Bohr sticks to his interpretation .....266  
     Einstein was wrong .....267

<b>Chapter 17: Einstein and the Bomb</b> .....	<b>269</b>
Warning the President: Einstein's Letter .....	270
Nuclear Physics in a Nutshell .....	271
Radiating particles .....	271
Realizing limitations of the nuclear force .....	272
Studying alpha decay .....	273
Detecting beta decay .....	274
Discovering Nuclear Fission .....	276
Misreading results .....	276
Realizing that uranium is being split .....	276
Imagining liquid drops .....	278
Making the Bomb .....	280
Creating chain reactions .....	281
Sensing the force .....	282
Moving on to nuclear bombs .....	284
Creating the H bomb .....	285
Remaining a Pacifist .....	286
Fearing a Nazi bomb .....	286
Striving for peace .....	288
<b>Chapter 18: Einstein's Greatest Blunder</b> .....	<b>289</b>
Looking for the Edge of the Universe .....	289
Deconstructing Newton .....	289
Reconciling "finite" with "unbounded" .....	290
Calculating the Curvature of the Universe .....	292
A two-dimensional example .....	292
A four-dimensional cylinder .....	293
Einstein's Model of the Universe .....	295
Changing his equation to fit reality .....	295
Rejecting a Russian model .....	296
Watching the Universe Expand .....	298
Exploring island universes .....	299
Using a yardstick for the stars .....	299
Discovering that galaxies are moving away .....	300
<b>Chapter 19: Not a Blunder After All</b> .....	<b>303</b>
Reevaluating Einstein's Universe .....	303
Energy creates gravity .....	304
Negative pressure creates antigravity .....	304
Exploring the Runaway Universe .....	305
Discovering dark matter .....	305
Speeding away: Accelerating expansion .....	306
Reviving the Cosmological Constant: Einstein Was Right After All .....	307
Tracking changes in gravity .....	308
Taking a baby picture of the universe: Space is flat! .....	309

What Is the Cosmological Constant? .....311  
     Creating particles out of the blue .....311  
     Filling up the vacuum .....313  
 Looking to Unify All of Physics .....314  
     Recasting relativity into a five-dimensional spacetime .....314  
     Leaving his work unfinished .....315  
 Reviving Einstein’s Dream .....315  
     Unifying the first two fields .....316  
     Attempting the next step .....317  
     Tying it all with strings .....317

***Part VI: The Part of Tens .....319***

**Chapter 20: Ten Insights into Einstein’s Beliefs  
 on Religion and Philosophy ..... 321**

Wrestling with Judaism .....322  
 Defining What It Means to Be Religious .....322  
 Reconciling Religion and Science .....323  
 Meeting Einstein’s God .....324  
 Tracking the Development of Religion .....324  
 Holding On Tight to Determinism .....325  
 Reading Philosophy .....326  
 Defining Thinking .....326  
 Interpreting the Scientific Method .....327  
 Stating the Goals of Science .....327

**Chapter 21: Ten Women Who Influenced Einstein ..... 329**

Einstein’s Mother, Pauline .....329  
     Encouraging music .....330  
     Discouraging Mileva .....330  
 Einstein’s Sister, Maja .....331  
 Einstein’s First Wife, Mileva Maric .....332  
     Starting a family .....332  
     Struggling with depression .....333  
     Heading toward divorce .....334  
 Einstein’s Daughter, Lieserl .....334  
 Einstein’s Second Wife, Elsa .....335  
 Einstein’s Stepdaughter Ilse .....336  
 Einstein’s Stepdaughter Margot .....337  
 Einstein’s Secretary, Helen Dukas .....337  
 Einstein’s First Love, Marie Winteler .....338  
 Marie Curie .....338

<i>Appendix A: Glossary</i> .....	<b>339</b>
<i>Appendix B: Einstein Timeline</i> .....	<b>343</b>
<i>Index</i> .....	<b>349</b>