

GROUP II: Beltramino, Bodigoi, Vita

Life

Albert Einstein **was born in Ulm (Württemberg)** on the 14th of March 1879 from a Jewish family.

His father, Hermann Einstein, was a salesman and engineer and his mother, Pauline Koch, was a housewife.

Einstein had a sister, Maria, called Maya; she was born in 1881 in Munich.

When Albert was one year old his family moved to Munich where his father and his uncle Jakob founded the electrical engineering company Einstein & Cie.

Einstein attended primary school at the Luitpold Gymnasium in Munich, where he excelled in his studies. **Here he was the only Jewish child in his class, therefore he was teased by his classmates.**

Later, his family moved to Italy but Albert continued his education in Aarau, Switzerland, and in 1896 he began to attend the Swiss Federal Polytechnic School in Zurich.

In **1900 he gained his diploma as a teacher in physics and mathematics.** One year later, he became **Swiss citizen** and, unable to find a teaching job, **he accepted a position as technical assistant in the Swiss Patent Office.** This wasn't the job he studied for, but he however worked there.

His years in Zurich were some of the happiest of his life. There he met many students who would become good friends, such as **Marcel Grossmann**, a mathematician, and **Michele Besso**, **with whom enjoyed lengthy conversation about space and time.**

He also **met his future wife, Mileva Maric, a physics student from Serbia who was the only female authorized to study there.** During this time he had **a very difficult moment:** he could not marry Mileva because **he could not support a family without a job and his father's business had gone bankrupt.** However, they **got married in 1903 in Zurich.**

In 1904 he had his first son, Hans Albert, and in 1910 his second son, Edward, both with Mileva.

From **1909 to 1913 he taught at the Polytechnic School in Zurich** and in **1914 he moved to Berlin** where he worked as a director of the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute.

His **marriage with Mileva was over in 1919** and in the same year **he married his cousin, Elsa Lowenthal.**

In 1921 he won the Nobel Prize for physics for his explanation of the photoelectric effect.

In 1933 he renounced his German citizenship for political reasons and emigrated to America to work as Professor of Theoretical Physics at Princeton. In 1939 his letter to Roosevelt was decisive for the **construction of the atomic bomb.**

In 1940 he became a United States citizen and he retired in 1945.

In the last decade of his life, Einstein withdrew from public life, rarely travelling far and confining himself to long walks around Princeton with close associates, whom he engaged in deep conversations about **politics, religion, physics and his unified field theory.**

On April 17, 1955, while he was working on a speech, Einstein suffered an abdominal aortic aneurysm and had an internal bleeding. He was taken to the University Medical Center at Princeton for treatment, but he refused surgery, believing that he had lived his life and was happy to accept his fate. "***I want to go when I want***" he stated at the time. "***It is useless to extend life artificially. I have done my job, it is time to go. I will do it elegantly.***"

Einstein died at the university medical center the next morning, **on the 18th April 1955**, at the age of 76 years.