



## Isaac Newton (1642 – 1727)

- Premature baby, raised by grandmother
- As an undergraduate at Cambridge, invented calculus
- Became Cambridge professor at age 26
- Later jobs included Member of Parliament, Warden of the Mint
- Lived at time of great political upheaval and scientific progress.
- Leader among many great contemporary scientists & mathematicians.
- Embroiled in numerous priority disputes.

## Contributions and publications:

- Created mechanics (physics of motion) in its modern form.
- Discovered law of gravity and many of its applications.
- Major contributions to theory of light and optics.
- Outstanding experimenter. Largely established the modern practices of experimental physics.
- Major publications: *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (a.k.a. *Principia*), 1687, and *Opticks*, 1704
- Other letters and shorter publications.
- Enthusiastic alchemist, lots of bogus experiments and theories.
- Wrote enormous treatises on theology, the bible, early Christian history. Extreme Anti-Trinitarian.