Science

List of significant people studied

*The biographical information in this document has been compiled with the utmost care and is accurate to the best of our knowledge. However, historical interpretations and dates may vary, and we advise readers to consult additional sources for more detailed information.

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Year 1

Seasonal changes	Everyday materials
N/A	N/A
Sensitive bodies	**Comparing animals**
N/A	**Jane Goodall (1934-2025 - United Kingdom)** was a primatologist renowned for her significant contributions to understanding the behaviour of chimpanzees in the wild.
Introduction to plants	**Investigating science through stories**
Dr. Percy Julian (1899-1975 - United States) was a pioneering chemist known for his work in creating medicinal drugs from plants. His research led to the development of treatments for various medical conditions and significantly advanced the field of organic chemistry.	N/A

Year 2

Habitats	Microhabitats
N/A	N/A
Uses of everyday materials	**Life cycles and health**
N/A	N/A
Plant growth	**Plant-based materials**
N/A	**Stephanie Kwolek (1923-2014 - United States)** was a chemist renowned for her invention of Kevlar, a high-strength material that is used in bulletproof vests and other protective gear. Her discovery has saved countless lives and had a profound impact on safety equipment.

Year 1/2

Year 1/2 (A): Ocean protectors
Jeanne Villepreux-Power (1794-1871 – France) was a marine biologist with a particular interest for shelled sea creatures. To help scientists better study living aquatic life, she invented the aquarium.

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Year 3

Movement and nutrition

Christiaan Eijkman (1858-1930 – Netherlands) jointly won the Nobel prize for the discovery of vitamins. He observed that eating a diet of plain rice could cause a disease called beriberi. He found that this disease was not contagious and related to the person's diet.

Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins (1861-1947 – United Kingdom) jointly won the Nobel prize for the discovery of vitamins. He carried on researching beriberi in 1912 and found that even small amounts of milk in the diet could stop the disease. He concluded that there must be something in our diet we need other than proteins, carbohydrates, fats and minerals.

Flemmie Pansy Kittrell (1904-1980 – USA) was the first African-American woman to earn a PhD in nutrition, researching how a child's diet affected their development. Flemmie travelled around the world improving the quality of life of thousands of people. She focused on malnutrition and child development.

Rocks and soil

Mary Anning (1799-1847 – United Kingdom) was an English fossil collector and palaeontologist who made significant discoveries in Jurassic marine fossil beds. Her findings contributed to important changes in scientific thinking about prehistoric life and the history of the Earth.

Light and shadows

Sir Isaac Newton (1643-1727 – United Kingdom) was a physicist and mathematician who carried out experiments shining light through different materials. He found that when you shine light through a prism (triangular-shaped glass), the light spreads out so you can see a full rainbow. He concluded white light is made up of the seven colours of the rainbow.

Augustin-Jean Fresnel (1788-1827 – France) was a civil engineer and physicist. His experimentation disproved Einstein's ideas that light travels faster in water than air. By shining light through glass, he proved that light slows down in solids and liquids.

Valerie Thomas (1943- USA) is an African-American inventor and NASA scientist who invented a device that uses light to make an image look 3D. It also allows transmission of the 3D images so ideas could be shared between scientists more easily.

Euclid (c. 300 BCE – Egypt) was an ancient Greek mathematician who made early predictions about why we cannot always see objects around us.

Raymond Crowe (Australia)
A performer whose act includes mime, ventriloquism, stage magic and shadow play.

Attraction dance group (Hungary)
A shadow theatre group known for their performance at the 2012 London Olympics and winning the seventh series of Britain's Got Talent.

Plant reproduction	Forces and magnets
N/A	N/A

Does hand span affect grip strength?

N/A

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Year 4

Digestion and food	Electricity and circuits
William Beaumont (1785-1853 – USA) was a surgeon in the U.S. army who saved the life of someone with an abdominal gunshot wound, which left an opening to the patient's digestive system. Observations led to a better understanding of stomach acid and digestion.	**Walter Lincoln Hawkins (1911-1992 – USA)** was a chemist and engineer who was the first African American scientist to work at Bell laboratories and research plastics. He discovered cheaper and safer plastics that could be used to insulate wires to make them more durable.
Steve Backshall (1973-present - United Kingdom) A naturalist and explorer who travels worldwide, sharing his findings to educate about habitats and living things through television and book writing.	
States of matter	**Sound and vibrations**
N/A	**N/A**
Classification and changing habitats	**How does the flow of liquids compare?**
Greta Thunberg (2003-present - Sweden) Greta Thunberg is an environmental activist known for her efforts to combat climate change. Her powerful speeches and global climate strikes have inspired millions to take action for the environment, bringing attention to the urgent need for climate policies.	**N/A**
Sir David Attenborough (1926-present - United Kingdom) Sir David Attenborough is a broadcaster and natural historian famous for his documentaries exploring the wonders of the natural world. His work has educated and inspired generations to appreciate and protect the environment.	**N/A**

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Year 5

Mixtures and separation	Properties and changes
N/A	**N/A**
Earth and space	**Life cycles and reproduction**
Claudius Ptolemy (c. 100-170 - Egypt) was an influential Greco-Roman mathematician, astronomer, and geographer. His work, the Almagest, provided a comprehensive model of the geocentric universe, which placed the Earth at the centre of the universe and dominated astronomical thought for over a thousand years.	**N/A**
Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543 - Poland) was a Renaissance mathematician and astronomer who proposed the heliocentric model of the universe, placing the Sun at the centre rather than the Earth. His groundbreaking theory laid the foundation for modern astronomy.	
Alhazen (Ibn al-Haytham) (965-1040 - Iraq), also known as Ibn al-Haytham, was a pioneering scientist who made significant contributions to the understanding of celestial mechanics. His work on the principles of light and vision influenced later developments in the heliocentric model of the Solar System.	
Unbalanced forces	**Human timeline**
Galileo Galilei (1564-1642 - Italy) was an astronomer, physicist, and engineer who played a key role in the scientific revolution. Famously, his feather and hammer experiment demonstrated that objects fall at the same rate regardless of their mass, contributing to the study of gravity.	**Yaacov Agam (1928-2026 - Israel)** was a sculptor and experimental artist known for his work with optical illusions and kinetic art. He is known for agamographs, where the viewer experiences something different depending on their body position.
Sir Isaac Newton (1643-1727 - United Kingdom) was a physicist and mathematician whose laws of motion and universal gravitation revolutionised science. His work laid the groundwork for classical mechanics and has had a lasting impact on physics and astronomy.	
Does the size of an asteroid affect its impact strength?	
N/A	

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Year 6

Classifying big and small	Light and reflection
Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778 - Sweden) was a botanist, zoologist, and physician known for developing the system of binomial nomenclature. His classification system for plants and animals is the basis for modern taxonomy, profoundly impacting biological sciences.	**Kumi Yamashita (1968- Japan/USA)** is an artist best known for her light and shadow sculptures constructed from everyday objects.

Evolution and inheritance

Charles Darwin (1809-1882 – United Kingdom) was a naturalist, geologist and biologist who travelled around the world observing variation in living things and using this to form his theory of evolution by natural selection. His observations during his voyage on HMS Beagle to the Galapagos Islands were crucial to developing his theories.

Alfred Russel Wallace (1823-1913 – United Kingdom) was a naturalist, biologist and explorer who also independently proposed the theory of evolution based on his observations of living things. He conducted extensive fieldwork in the Amazon Basin and the Malay Archipelago, contributing significantly to biogeography.

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Gregor Mendel (1822-1884 – Austria) was known as the father of modern genetics for his pioneering work on the inheritance of traits in pea plants. His experiments established many of the rules of heredity now referred to as the laws of Mendelian inheritance.

Jean-Baptiste Lamarck (1744-1829 – France) was a naturalist and biologist best known for his theory of inheritance of acquired characteristics, which proposed that organisms could pass on traits acquired during their lifetime to their offspring. His ideas were an important early contribution to the study of evolution, even though they have been disproved.

Masatoshi Nei (1931-2023 – Japan/USA)
An evolutionary biologist renowned for his work in molecular evolution. His research significantly advanced the understanding of genetic variation and evolutionary processes.

Circuits, batteries and switches	Circulation and health
N/A	**Aristotle (384-322 BCE – Greece)** was an ancient Greek philosopher and mathematician who made contributions to numerous fields, including biology, where he laid the groundwork for the study of zoology and classification. He made observations showing the importance of the heart in the body.

Are some sunglasses safer than others?

N/A

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