

*"No great discovery was ever  
made without a bold guess."*

*– Sir Isaac Newton*

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# Sir Isaac NEWTON

1642–1727

## ENGLISH PHYSICIST AND MATHEMATICIAN

Newton is widely recognized as one of the most influential scientists of all time and as a key figure in the scientific revolution – not only because of the universal laws of motion, but also because of his work on optics: Newton developed a color theory based on his observations that a prism decomposes white light into the many colors of the visible spectrum, and he was also the first to show a diagram using a prism as a beam expander. Newton discovered chromatic aberration, and proceeded to design a telescope using mirrors, rather than lenses, hence building the first known functional reflecting telescope.

A phrase frequently attributed to Newton but which was used prior to him, speaks of the nature of the scientific enterprise: "On the shoulders of giants...". There are many contributors to the advancement of knowledge, all over the world.

