

## National Geographic Kids Readers: Albert Einstein

### Notes for teachers: using this book in the classroom

**Reading objectives:** read most words quickly and accurately, without overt sounding and blending, when they have been frequently encountered; check that the text makes sense to them; retrieve and record information from non-fiction

**Spoken language objectives:** use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas

**Curriculum links:** History: significant people and events; Science: working scientifically

**Interest words:** atom, equation, gravity, matter, molecule, particle, patent, predict, solar eclipse, space, theory

**Resources:** paper, pencils, crayons

Children who are reading at White and Lime book bands will be able to read this book in a group, pair or independently over several sessions. They will have good reading stamina and will be able to tackle more challenging vocabulary and a range of varied sentence structures. Guided group work and independent challenges can be used to develop retrieval, interpretation and meaning making, as well as children's ability to express and explain ideas and concepts.

### Language

- Children will be able to use the full range of cues available to them and their extensive word knowledge to decode most of the language in this book. Discussion in guided groups and after independent reading can be used to develop children's abilities to understand and interpret the more complex information and ideas that are presented. Children may need help with the following:
  - decoding and understanding some of the words contained in the 'Word to Know' boxes: *atom, equation, gravity, matter, molecule, particle, patent, predict, solar eclipse, space, theory.*
  - using the glossary for the visual support provided to help them understand the complex concepts included. Spend time discussing the ideas.
  - reading and pronouncing some names of places and famous scientists (p14, p29)
  - decoding the less familiar topic language: *universe, physics, quantum physics, general relativity, spacetime, astronomers.*
- Children may need help to bring information together from the illustrations and text to make rich meaning from the complex information, particularly the scientific explanations on pages 22–29.
- Children may need help to make inferences about the character of Einstein. Ask them about what made him special and unusual and support them to suggest ideas and challenge each other.
- Children may need help to use the index to retrieve information that is arranged alphabetically.

# Collins

## Images

- Look at the front cover and title pages and ask children to suggest what Einstein might have been like.
- Spend time looking closely at the picture of Einstein's office (p5) and ask children to infer what this tells them about Einstein's personality.
- Look at the images on pp10–11. Discuss what toys and food were like in Einstein's time, and how they were different to toys and food now.

## Activities

- Complete the quiz about Einstein together. Help children to use the index and contents list to locate the answers.
- Read Einstein's 'In His Own Words' boxes as if you are Einstein. Take questions from the children about your ideas in role as Einstein.
- Ask children to pretend to be Einstein's school teacher when he was young and write a school report card for him.
- Research using the internet to find out about a modern-day child genius. Create a display about modern-day geniuses for the classroom.

## Questions

- When and where was Einstein born?
- What made Einstein unusual as a child?
- What is a theory?
- Why was Einstein considered a genius?
- What fact about Einstein is your favourite?