

Fantastic  
Lives

TIME

# College Bound



Amy K. Hooper

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# Brain Power

Have you watched the television show *The Big Bang Theory*? It's about four scientists, and one of them is really smart. Sheldon Cooper is very curious, and he knows a lot about **physics**. You probably have heard about a real physicist named Albert Einstein. Many years ago, he asked all kinds of questions about science. He also suggested answers called **theories**.

Albert Einstein is considered to have been a genius. He loved learning and, as a teenager, attended a university in Switzerland. Today, many students go to college to pursue their love of learning. Some people start when they are very young. Their curiosity is off the charts!

## Theoretical Physicist

Theoretical physicists do something that you do every day: ask questions! These scientists want to find out how nature works. They ask questions about everything we can see and even things we can't see.



scene from *The Big Bang Theory*

## What does IQ mean?

The intelligence quotient (IQ) is one way that we try to measure how someone thinks and solves problems. After you take a bunch of tests, you receive a score. Most people earn a score between 90 and 100.



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# Young Geniuses

Who are these young students who graduate early from high school and earn college degrees? You might have more in common with them than you might think.

In this book, you'll meet six brilliant students. On page 16, you can read about Gregory Smith, who earned a diploma from a public high school in Florida when he was 9 years old.

Some of the featured students were homeschooled. Belicia Cespedes liked studying at home because she could learn as quickly as she wanted. Her story is on page 32.

Wherever these students learned, they also played sports, hung out with friends, and played musical instruments. Sho Yano began writing classical music on the piano by the age of 5. His story is on page 36. Yano isn't the only smart one in his family. His sister earned a biology degree at the age of 13.



## Musical Genius

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is considered a **child prodigy**. When he was three years old, he could play chords on the harpsichord. Two years later, he was composing his own songs. As a child and into his teens, he traveled Europe playing concerts for royalty and nobility. He went on to become one of the most famous pianists, violinists, and composers in history.

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