

## What does your legacy look like?

Scientists are constantly asking questions, collecting evidence, and refining their knowledge. Thanks to their efforts, each generation can come to understand the world a little more fully than those who came before. In these activities, students will revisit the legacy of a famous scientist and consider how their own legacy could be recorded.

- Why should we engage with scientific ideas from the past?
- Why are original records and primary sources important to understanding the past?
- How does recording our experiences allow us to choose what we pass on?
- Do we get to choose what our legacy is?

### Great Minds of Science

Albert Einstein's name is practically synonymous with science...but how well do you know his accomplishments and legacy?



Learn about Einstein's theory of general relativity.

WEBSITE: [npr.org/2015/11/25/457415538/explaining-einsteins-theory-of-general-relativity-on-its-100-birthday](https://www.npr.org/2015/11/25/457415538/explaining-einsteins-theory-of-general-relativity-on-its-100-birthday)

#### Discussion Questions:

Einstein's insight into the fundamental nature of space and time helped change the way that physicists think about the world.

- What was so radical about Einstein's idea of general relativity?
- What is a real-world technology we rely on today that supports Einstein's theory?
- Why should everyone, not just scientists, learn about Einstein's ideas?

**Instructions:** Identify a famous scientist who you would like to learn more about. Your figure can be historical or living and does not have to be a well-known household name. Please pick someone other than Albert Einstein.

Don't know where to start? This SciShow playlist includes episodes on all kinds of incredible scientists, from Marie Curie to Michael Faraday and more! ([youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC31B0C382F9585D6](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC31B0C382F9585D6))



Our students love to pose with the Einstein Memorial in D.C.!

Once you have chosen your scientist, consider the following questions:

- Where and how did you learn about this scientist?
- In what ways were they a leader in their field?
- What was their breakthrough or biggest accomplishment?
- What specific challenges did this scientist face?
- How did this scientist handle adversity? Be specific.
- How can we see evidence of this scientist's legacy today?
- Draw parallels between the scientist's experiences and your own. What lessons can you learn from understanding the challenges faced by this scientist? How can you apply those lessons to your life?

**Create a presentation** responding to the questions above.

- Your presentation should consist of at least **eight slides**.
- Each slide should include at least **one image**.
- Don't forget to cite any sources of information or photos you found online.

**Go further:** How might you design a memorial for your chosen figure to recognize their legacy? Consider the Einstein Memorial in D.C. as a starting point.

## The Golden Record

In 1977, NASA launched two twin spacecraft, Voyagers 1 and 2, with the intention of exploring beyond our solar system. Each spacecraft carries a special message from Earth in the form of a Golden Record. When played, the record tells the story of life on Earth, using a variety of audio clips and encoded messages. Each audio recording—from whale songs, to music, to spoken language—was selected to convey something significant about our planet and its inhabitants.

### Duplicate cover and record in the collection of the National Air and Space Museum

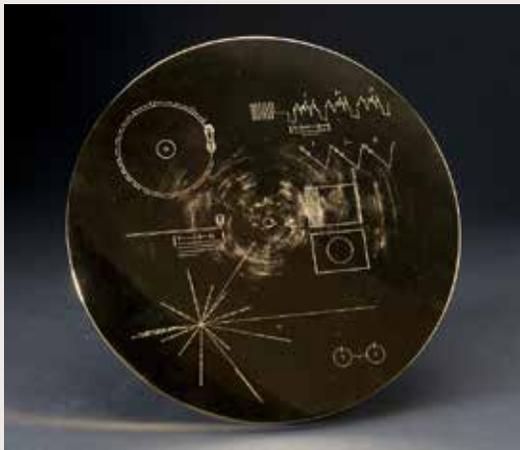


Image source: [airandspace.si.edu/collection-objects/record-cover-voyager-duplicate/nasm\\_A19772740000](http://airandspace.si.edu/collection-objects/record-cover-voyager-duplicate/nasm_A19772740000)



Image source: [si.edu/object/record-voyager-sounds-earth:nasm\\_A19780203000](http://si.edu/object/record-voyager-sounds-earth:nasm_A19780203000)



Read this article from *Smithsonian Magazine* to learn more about the contents of the Voyager record.



**“What is on Voyager’s Golden Record?”**

WEBSITE: [smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/what-is-on-voyagers-golden-record-73063839/](http://smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/what-is-on-voyagers-golden-record-73063839/)

**Instructions:** Now it's your turn! Build a playlist/record/time capsule that says something about you, your family, or your community. This record will be sent on the next mission beyond our solar system and may not be opened for millions of years, so choose carefully!

Consider what kinds of items and recordings you can collect and what you will include. How can you determine what is meaningful and what is mundane? You must collect items in at least three of the following categories, and include 10 items total:

1. Videos
2. Pictures
3. Audio and music
4. News and social media
5. Primary documents
6. Original artifacts

**Collect** the 10 items that you are sending. This can mean taking recordings of yourself or your environment, building a digital playlist, etc.

**Answer** the following questions for each item:

- Explain why you chose the item and what it says about you, your family, or your community.
- How does the item express your values?
- What could an alien life form (or future human) learn about you from this item?
- What would be missing if this item were left out?



**Go further:** 1 Second Everyday App (Available for Apple or Android)

Cesar Kuriyama developed this app based on a project that he completed the year he turned 30. Every day of that year, he recorded a 1-second video that captured moments in his life. At the end of the year, he had a video diary that highlighted experiences he may otherwise have forgotten. Now, you can download the app and start your own 1-second-everyday journey!



SCAN ME



Watch Cesar's TED Talk.  
WATCH: [/bit.ly/3gamWZB](https://bit.ly/3gamWZB)

**Students!** Answering our questions? Using our strategies? Share them with us at [discovery@worldstrides.com](mailto:discovery@worldstrides.com).