

Total English

Advanced

Extreme intellects

- 1 Go to www.extremeintellect.com , click on 'Great Geniuses' and answer the following questions.
 - a) Click on 'Plato'. Why did Plato leave the 'Thirty Tyrants'?
 - b) Why did Plato decide not to pursue politics in Athens?
 - c) Why was Plato's Academy closed down in 529 A.D.?
 - d) How did Plato risk being killed when he was a member of the 'Thirty Tyrants'?
 - e) What did the execution of Socrates cause Plato to go on to do?
 - f) What was the aim of Plato's Academy set up in 387 B.C?
 - g) What do you understand by Plato's quote: 'We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light'?
 - h) Now click on 'Extreme Intellects' (in the top right-hand corner of the page) and click on Stephen. W. Hawking. How does Stephen communicate with people?
 - i) What does the quote about his university, Oxford, imply?
 - j) How did Stephen enhance the study of Einstein's Theory of General Relativity?
 - k) What is Stephen's conclusion about black holes?
 - l) Why was Stephen's book, 'A Brief History of Time', in the Guinness Book of Records?
- 2 **Have you read Stephen's book, 'A Brief History of Time' or any of Plato's work? Discuss with your partner. Is this kind of reading material your cup of tea?**
- 3 **Work with a partner. Choose one of the other people listed on the Extreme Intellect list and write six facts about him/her below.**
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
 - e) _____
 - f) _____



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TEACHER'S NOTES:

Aim: to use the Internet to explore the theme of vision and people with vision. This webquest is designed to be used in conjunction with unit 9.

Time: 40 minutes

Materials: copy of the worksheet for each student

- 1 Make sure that students find the correct website. Students can work alone or in pairs to answer the questions. Elicit answers from the class.

Answers (correct at time of going to press):

- a) Because of their violent ways.
- b) Because of the execution of his teacher in 399 B.C.
- c) The Christian Emperor thought it was a Pagan establishment.
- d) He refused to arrest a particular man and bring him to Athens for execution.
- e) He gave up his political ambitions and went to Italy where he learnt the theories of Pythagoras.
- f) To educate the young people of Athens on future political leadership.
- g) This could be open to students' interpretation - a possibility is that it is a tragedy when men are afraid of the truth or following what their heart truly tells them/they may tow the line of a political system out of fear rather than belief.
- h) He uses a computer system equipped with an electronic voice.
- i) That at that time, if you were naturally clever, then working hard at course work was not important. If you were not naturally gifted, it was better to accept a lower class degree.
- j) He created various new mathematical techniques to study it in relation to cosmology.
- k) They will be the end of the universe as we know it.
- l) Because it was on the Sunday Times bestsellers list for 237 weeks.

- 2 Students discuss with each other whether or not they have read Stephen Hawking's book or any of Plato's work. Ask for class feedback.
- 3 Students work with a partner to do a mini fact file on another person on this website. They write six facts. Monitor whilst they work to check they are on the right lines. Ask for class feedback.



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