

## Isaac Newton -background

- born Christmas Day 1642 ( a few months after Galileo died) -1727  
in Woolsthorpe England (father died a few months before)
  - Mother remarried, raised by grandmother
  - Cambridge University bachelors degree 1665
  - 1665-1667 spent two years at home (Black plague close to Cambridge)
  - had a good 2 years at home... He devised (at age 24):
    - differential and integral calculus
    - mechanics
    - Law of gravity
    - optics
- New World picture + mathematics** that would last 300 years almost unchanged  
(some will last as long as mankind)
- Newton had a tendency to exhaust fields and get bored
  - didn't publish for many years
  - Edmund Halley (friend & astronomer) got him to publish
  - 1687 “Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy” or “Principia”

Newton became famous – knighted- visited by Peter the Great of Russia  
made Master of the Mint (was an active Master of mint\*\* see next page)  
1703 (when Hook died) President of Royal Society  
dominated intellectual landscape till he died at 84  
experimented with alchemy – speculation about heavy metal (e.g. Hg) poisoning  
(mad Hatter in Alice in Wonderland)



### VIGO Bay

- 1702 English captured part of Spanish treasure fleet
- The silver and ~7lbs of gold were brought back to England
- They were received with great ceremony by the then master of the mint, Sir Isaac Newton in person.
- The 1703/03 gold and silver coins from this lot were stamped with VIGO.