



Obituary of Peter Higgs: The Introverted Pioneer Who Revolutionized Our Perception of the Universe

Description

Georgina Rannard presents the story of Professor Peter Higgs, the once reserved physicist who became famous for his discovery of the Higgs boson, also known as the 'God particle.' In the 1960s, Higgs presented a groundbreaking theory explaining why the universe's fundamental building blocks, atoms, have mass. This theory set off a half-century-long search for the key to understanding the universe's composition.

The elusive Higgs boson was finally discovered in 2012 using the Large Hadron Collider at Cern in Switzerland. "It's very nice to be right sometimes," Higgs modestly told reporters after the particle was confirmed. Now known for the boson and his modest demeanor, Higgs was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2013.

Born in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1929, Higgs was a brilliant student who initially excelled in chemistry rather than physics. He obtained his Ph.D. from King's College, London, but after being passed over for a job there, he moved to the University of Edinburgh to continue his research.

Despite early struggles to get his theory accepted, it was finally published in 1964. "At the beginning, I had no idea whether a discovery would be made in my lifetime," Higgs admitted. However, the discovery of the Higgs boson not only validated his theory but also completed the standard model of particle physics.

Higgs may have ended his official career with his retirement in 2006, but his lifelong dedication to understanding the particles that form our universe has left an unforgettable impact. Notably known as a reticent individual, his work stands out brilliantly in the world of physics. As Higgs's journey shows, the quieter ones usually have the universe at their fingertips.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Elusive** // (adjective): Difficult to find or achieve.
2. **Modest** // (adjective): Having or showing a moderate estimation of one's own abilities or achievements.
3. **Half-century** // (noun): A period of fifty years.
4. **Reticent** // (adjective): Inclined to keep silent or reserved.
5. **Validation** // (noun): The action of checking or proving the accuracy of something.
6. **Fundamental** // (adjective): Forming a necessary base or core of central importance.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which process involves discussions to reach an agreement or compromise between parties?
Option: Incorporating
Option: Proprietary
Option: Alliances
Option: Negotiations
2. What term refers to the great size or extent of something?
Option: Dedicated
Option: Magnitude
Option: Extraterrestrial
Option: Flawlessly
3. Which word describes the process of changing from one state to another?



- Option: Fortified
- Option: Transitioned
- Option: Imminent
- Option: Anchored

4. What term refers to arranging or negotiating a deal or settlement?

- Option: Tandem
- Option: Emerged
- Option: Brokered
- Option: Termination

5. Which word indicates something important or of consequence?

- Option: Illegitimate
- Option: Significant
- Option: Implying
- Option: Streaming

6. What involves allocating resources with the expectation of a positive return in the future?

- Option: Elusive
- Option: Investment
- Option: Modest
- Option: Half-century

7. Which word describes someone who is reserved or hesitant to speak freely?

- Option: Reticent
- Option: Validation
- Option: Fundamental
- Option: Facilitating

8. What type of information or technology is owned exclusively by a company?

- Option: Facilitating
- Option: Proprietary
- Option: Investment
- Option: Reticent

9. Which term refers to partnerships formed for mutual benefit or advantage?

- Option: Anchored
- Option: Tandem
- Option: Emerged
- Option: Alliances

10. What term describes a situation that causes annoyance or disappointment?

- Option: Frustrating



- Option: Satisfying
- Option: Exemplary
- Option: Achievement

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The _____ exploration mission aimed to probe the possibility of life beyond Earth.
12. The weather forecast predicted the _____ arrival of a severe storm.
13. Her hard work and passion made her a _____ team player.
14. The court declared the contract null and void as it was _____ under the law.
15. The artist performed the complex piece _____ without any mistakes.
16. By _____ the latest technology the company gained a competitive edge in the market.
17. The company announced the _____ of several non-performing branches.
18. Understanding the _____ principles of economics is crucial for making informed decisions.
19. Despite his wealth he lived a _____ lifestyle avoiding extravagance.
20. The two companies worked in _____ to launch the new product successfully.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The workshop aimed at better communication among team members.
22. The new service provides high-quality video over the internet.
23. After the merger a new leader to guide the combined company.
24. The treasure hunt became more challenging as the final clue proved .
25. The discovery of a rare artifact was a achievement in the field of archaeology.



26. The team was by their shared values and commitment to excellence.
27. She deleted the important file from the folder.
28. The volunteers were to helping the community rebuild after the natural disaster.
29. The company protects its trade secrets as information critical for its success.
30. The successful led to a mutually beneficial agreement between the two businesses.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Negotiations 2. Magnitude 3. Transitioned 4. Brokered 5. Significant 6. Investment 7. Reticent 8. Proprietary 9. Alliances 10. Frustrating

Gap-Fill: 11. extraterrestrial 12. imminent 13. dedicated 14. illegitimate 15. flawlessly 16. availing 17. termination 18. fundamental 19. modest 20. tandem

Matching sentence: 1. facilitating 2. streaming 3. emerged 4. elusive 5. significant 6. anchored 7. inadvertently 8. dedicated 9. proprietary 10. negotiations

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL6

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