

ELON MUSK

PROFILE



Elon Musk: Entrepreneur

Elon Musk is a South African-born entrepreneur and inventor who is widely recognized as one of the most innovative minds of our time. He is the CEO and co-founder of Tesla, the electric car company, as well as SpaceX, the private space exploration firm. Musk has also been involved in several other ventures, including PayPal and SolarCity.

Early Life and Career

Musk was born in Pretoria, South Africa in 1971. As a child, he was an avid reader and taught himself computer programming at a young age. After graduating from high school, he moved to the United States to attend college at the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied physics and economics.

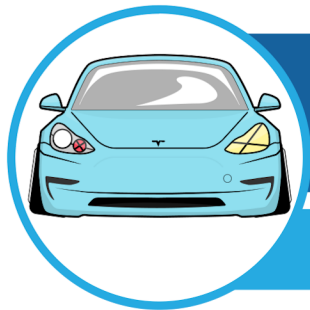
Musk's entrepreneurial career began in the mid-1990s when he co-founded Zip2, a company that provided online business directories and city guides. The company was eventually sold for nearly \$300 million, providing Musk with his first big financial success.

In 1999, Musk founded X.com, an online payment company that later became PayPal. PayPal was a huge success and was eventually sold to eBay for \$1.5 billion in 2002, earning Musk a fortune.

Innovations and Achievements

After PayPal, Musk turned his attention to the automotive industry. He co-founded Tesla in 2003 with the goal of producing high-performance electric cars that could compete with traditional gasoline-powered vehicles. The company's first car, the Tesla Roadster, was released in 2008 and received critical acclaim for its innovation and design. Tesla has since become one of the most valuable car companies in the world, with a market capitalization of over \$600 billion.

Musk has also been involved in the aerospace industry through SpaceX. The company was founded in 2002 with the goal of making space travel more affordable and accessible. SpaceX has achieved several notable milestones, including being the first privately-funded company to send a spacecraft to the International Space Station.

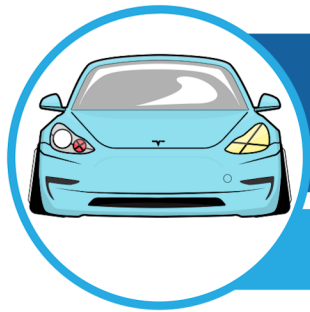


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Vocabulary:

- Innovative - introducing new ideas or methods
- Entrepreneur - a person who starts and runs a business
- Physics - the branch of science concerned with the nature and properties of matter and energy
- Economics - the branch of knowledge concerned with the production, consumption, and transfer of wealth
- Financial success - achievement of financial gain or profit
- High-performance - achieving a high level of efficiency or effectiveness
- Market capitalization - the value of a company's outstanding shares of stock



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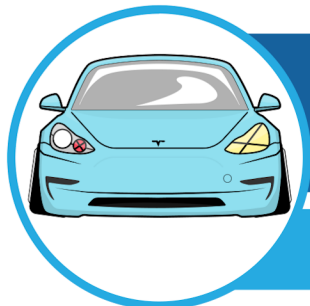
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Comprehension Questions:

1. Where was Elon Musk born?
2. What was Musk's first big financial success?
3. What is Tesla's goal?
4. What is SpaceX's goal?
5. What is the value of Tesla's market capitalization?

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think makes Elon Musk an innovative entrepreneur?
2. Do you think Musk's success is due to his education or his experience in the business world?
3. How do you think Tesla and SpaceX have changed the automotive and aerospace industries, respectively?
4. What do you think is the most important quality for a successful entrepreneur to have?
5. Do you think Musk's involvement in multiple industries is a strength or a weakness? Why?



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Lesson Plan

Level: Lower-Intermediate

Time: 60 minutes

Aim: To discuss and understand the life and achievements of Elon Musk

Objectives:

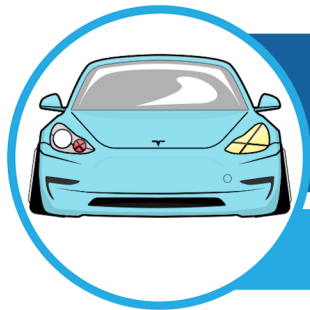
- To read and understand an article about Elon Musk
- To learn new vocabulary related to Elon Musk
- To answer comprehension questions about the article
- To discuss Elon Musk's achievements and impact on society

Materials:

- "Elon Musk" handout
- Whiteboard or flipchart
- Markers

Procedure:

- Introduction (5 minutes) a. Greet the students and introduce the topic of the lesson: Elon Musk. b. Ask the students if they know who Elon Musk is and if they have heard about him in the news. c. Write the name "Elon Musk" on the whiteboard and ask the students to brainstorm what they know about him.



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- Reading and Vocabulary (25 minutes) a. Hand out the "Elon Musk" handout to the students. b. Ask the students to read the article individually and underline any new vocabulary words. c. After reading, ask the students to work in pairs and discuss the new vocabulary words they found. d. As a class, go over the new vocabulary words and their meanings. Write the words on the whiteboard for visual reference.
- Comprehension Questions (20 minutes) a. Ask the students to read the article again. b. Hand out the comprehension questions from the "Elon Musk" handout. c. Ask the students to answer the questions individually. d. After 10 minutes, ask the students to work in pairs and compare their answers. e. As a class, go over the comprehension questions and their answers.
- Discussion (10 minutes) a. Divide the class into small groups of 3-4 students. b. Ask the groups to discuss Elon Musk's achievements and impact on society. c. After 5 minutes, bring the class back together and ask each group to share their thoughts and ideas.
- Conclusion (5 minutes) a. Summarize the key points of the lesson. b. Ask the students if they have any questions or comments about Elon Musk. c. Thank the students for their participation and end the lesson.

Optional Extension Activities:

- Ask the students to research one of Elon Musk's companies (such as SpaceX or Tesla) and present their findings to the class.
- Have the students write a short essay about Elon Musk and his impact on society.

Note: The timing of each activity may vary depending on the size and level of the class.