

TimeLine

Person of the Month: Jean Piaget (1896-1980)

Ankit Patel^{1*}

Born	9 August 1896, Neuchâtel, Switzerland.
Died	16 September 1980, Geneva, Switzerland.
Citizenship	Swiss
Known for	Constructivism, Genetic Epistemology, Theory Of Cognitive Development, Object Permanence, Egocentrism
Education	University of Neuchâtel
Influenced	Bärbel Inhelder, Jerome Bruner, Kenneth Kaye, Lawrence Kohlberg, Robert Kegan, Howard Gardner, Thomas Kuhn, Seymour Papert, Lev Vygotsky
Fields	Developmental Psychology, Epistemology



20th-century scholar Jean Piaget created highly influential theories on the stages of mental development among children, becoming a leading figure in the fields of cognitive theory and developmental psychology.

Jean Piaget was born on August 9, 1896 in Neuchatel, Switzerland and died September 17, 1980. He was an influential experimenter and theorist in the field of developmental psychology and in the study of human intelligence. His father was devoted to his writings of medieval literature and the history of Neuchatel. Piaget learned from his father the value of systematic work, even in small matters. His mother was very intelligent, energetic, and kind, but had a rather neurotic temperament that made family life troublesome. Her mental health influenced his studies of psychology and he became interested in psychoanalysis and pathological psychology. Piaget's godfather was the Swiss scholar Samuel Cornut who nurtured in him an interest in philosophy and epistemology during his adolescence.

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Biologist and psychologist Jean Piaget was born on August 9, 1896, in Neuchâtel, Switzerland. He was his parents' first child. Piaget's mother, Rebecca Jackson, attributed his intense early interest in the sciences to his own neurotic tendencies. Yet his father, a medieval literature professor named Arthur, modeled a passionate dedication to his studies—a trait that Piaget began to emulate from an early age. At just 10 years old, Piaget's fascination with mollusks drew him to the local museum of natural history, where he stared at specimens for hours on end. When he was 11 and attending Neuchâtel Latin High School, Piaget wrote a short scientific paper on the albino sparrow. By the time he was a teen, his papers After high school, Piaget went on to study zoology at the University of Neuchâtel, receiving his Ph.D. in the natural sciences in 1918. That same year Piaget spent a semester studying psychology under Carl Jung and Paul Eugen Bleuler at the University of Zürich, where Piaget developed a deeper interest in psychoanalysis. Over the course of the next year, he studied abnormal psychology at the Sorbonne in Paris. on mollusks were being widely published. Piaget's readers were unaware of his age and considered him an expert on the topic.

Jean Piaget died of unknown causes on September 16, 1980, in Geneva, Switzerland. He was 84 years old. His body rests at the Cimetière des Plainpalais. Piaget was the recipient of an array of honorary degrees and accolades, including the prestigious Erasmus (1972) and Balzan (1978) prizes. The author of more than 50 books and hundreds of papers, Piaget summed up his passion for the ongoing pursuit of scientific knowledge with these words: *"The current state of knowledge is a moment in history, changing just as rapidly as the state of knowledge in the past has ever changed and, in many instances, more rapidly."*

TIMELINE

- 1896**-- Aug. 9 -- Born in Neuchatel, Switzerland.
- 1906**-- Published first scientific paper.
- 1911**-- Started publishing on own.
- 1917**-- Published a philosophic novel, *Recherché*.
- 1918**-- Doctor's degree with a thesis on mollusks of Valais.
- 1919**-- He took a train to Paris where he spent two years at the Sorbonne. In Paris, started to study language development in children.
- 1920**-- Working in collaboration with Théodore Simon at the Alfred Binet Laboratory in Paris.
- 1921**-- Piaget returned to Switzerland as director of the Rousseau Institute in Geneva. Piaget was invited by Claparede to become the director of research at the Jean-Jacques Rousseau Institute in Geneva. Started to work in child psychology.
- 1923**-- He married Valentine Châtenay; the couple had three children, whom Piaget studied from infancy.
- 1924**-- Published *The Language and Thought of the Child*.
- 1925**-- Piaget, took the chair of philosophy at the University of Neuchatel. First daughter born.
- 1926**-- Published *The Child's Conception of the World*.
- 1927**-- His second daughter was born.

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- 1927**-- Published *The Child's Conception of Causality*.
- 1928**-- Published *Judgment and Reasoning in the Child*.
- 1929**-- Piaget returned to the University of Geneva where he continued his research of child psychology on a larger scale. Jean Piaget accepted the post of Director of the International Bureau of Education. Appointed professor of history of scientific thought at the University of Geneva
- 1931**-- First son born.
- 1932**-- Published *The Moral Judgment of the Child*.
- 1936**-- Published *The Origins of Intelligence in Children*.
- 1940**-- Became Director of the Psychology Laboratory.
- 1950**-- Member of the Executive Council of UNESCO.
- 1951**-- Published *Play, Dreams, and Imitation in Children*.
- 1955**-- Became director of International Center for Epistemology in Geneva.
- 1958**-- Published *The Growth of Logical Thinking From Childhood to Adolescence*.
- 1964**--Piaget was invited to serve as chief consultant at two conferences at Cornell University.
- 1970**-- Published Carmichael's *Manual of Child Psychology*.
- 1971**-- Published *Biology and Knowledge*.
- 1972**-- Defined the four stages of intellectual development.
- 1974**-- Published *The Grasp of Consciousness*.
- 1979**-- He was awarded the Balzan Prize for Social and Political Sciences.
- 1980**-- Sep 17-- Died on September 17th

Appointments

- 1921–25 Research Director (Chef des travaux), Institut Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Geneva
- 1925–29 Professor of Psychology, Sociology and the Philosophy of Science, University of Neuchatel
- 1929–39 Professeur extraordinaire of the History of Scientific Thought, University of Geneva
- 1929–67 Director, International Bureau of Education, Geneva
- 1932–71 Director, Institute of Educational Sciences, University of Geneva
- 1938–51 Professor of Experimental Psychology and Sociology, University of Lausanne
- 1939–51 Professor of Sociology, University of Geneva
- 1940–71 Professeur ordinaire of Experimental Psychology, University of Geneva
- 1952–64 Professor of Genetic Psychology, Sorbonne, Paris
- 1954–57 President, International Union of Scientific Psychology
- 1955–80 Director, International Centre for Genetic Epistemology, Geneva
- 1971–80 Emeritus Professor, University of Geneva

Honorary Doctorates

1. 1936 Harvard
2. 1946 Sorbonne
3. 1949 University of Brazil

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4. 1949 Bruxelles
5. 1953 Chicago
6. 1954 McGill
7. 1958 Warsaw
8. 1959 Manchester
9. 1960 Oslo
10. 1960 Cambridge
11. 1962 Brandeis
12. 1964 Montreal
13. 1964 Aix-Marseille
14. 1966 Pennsylvania
15. 1966? Barcelona
16. 1970 Yale

Source: Wikipedia page: [wiki/Jean_Piaget](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Piaget)

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