

Elon Musk



Who Is Elon Musk?

Elon Musk is an **entrepreneur** and **innovator**. He is known for developing the website PayPal and the rocket and space exploration company SpaceX. The electric car company Tesla is another of the companies that Elon is involved with.



Businesses

In 1995, Elon started his first business called Zip2. This was a company that helped people to search for small businesses online. Elon sold Zip2 for millions of dollars! Elon also developed PayPal. PayPal is a company that makes it easier to pay for things online.



Early Life

Elon was born in South Africa on 28th June 1971. His father is South African and his mother is from Canada. Elon was interested in computers when he was a child. He made his own video game when he was 12 years old and sold it to a computing magazine. Elon left school and moved from South Africa to Canada and then to America.



SpaceX

Elon is fascinated with space and thinks that it would be good if humans could travel to other planets. He started SpaceX as a way of making space travel cheaper. The first SpaceX rocket called Falcon 1 took off in 2008.

Some of the parts used in SpaceX rockets are **reusable**. This includes the Dragon spacecraft, which carries astronauts and supplies to the International Space Station.



Tesla

Elon had always been interested in the idea of electric cars but thought that lots of them looked quite boring. In 2004, he went to work for Tesla Motors. Then, Tesla made a fun looking electric sports car called the Roadster in 2006.

Hyperloop

In 2013, Musk came up with the idea of the Hyperloop transport system. If made, it would be a pod that could carry people at high-speed between San Francisco and Los Angeles in a large tube.

Did-You-Know...?

Tesla now make more affordable cars.

Glossary

entrepreneur: Someone who starts their own business or businesses.

innovator: Someone who improves on something that already exists.

reusable: An object that can be used again cutting down on waste.

Questions

1. What is Elon Musk known for being? Tick one.

- an entrepreneur and innovator
- a chef
- a nurse
- a vet

2. Look at the paragraph titled **Early Life**. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Elon moved to America.
- Elon Musk was born in South Africa.
- Elon designed his first computer game.
- Elon moved to Canada.

3. Which of these businesses was Elon Musk involved with? Tick **two**.

- Zip2
- Amazon
- Tesco
- PayPal

4. What was the name of the first SpaceX rocket? Tick one.

- Sparrow 1
- Falcon 1
- Pigeon 1
- Hawk 1

5. Why did Elon Musk start the company SpaceX?

6. Fill in the missing words to complete the sentence.

Elon Musk was always interested in the idea _____ cars but thought that lots of them looked quite _____.

7. Which is your favourite of Elon Musk's projects? Explain your answer.
