

Name _____

Date _____



Luis Alvarez

Luis Alvarez, he made his place in history.

Luis Alvarez solved a lot of mysteries.

Luis Alvarez, from radars to dinosaurs.

Luis Alvarez, and he did it with physics.

San Francisco, 1911, the 13th of June,

A scientist was born who later went on to

Shake up the world with new innovations

By developing things that are truly amazing.

He took a liking to science at an early age

But then fell in love with physics in a major way.

So in 1934, he got a master's degree,

And in 1936, he earned a Ph.D.,

Which brings us up to World War II.

He developed three radar systems for us to use

To land aircraft, locate targets,

Detect weapons. His mind thought of all of this.

When the war ended, his work wasn't done.

Next up, he invented the hydrogen

Bubble chamber, which is used to find subatomic particles.

He won the Nobel Prize in physics for this

And became the first Hispanic American to win.

Next, he set his sights on pyramids.

He used cosmic rays to search for their chambers,

Kind of like how X-rays use radiation.

There weren't any chambers that were found,

But this technique is still around.

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In the '80s, Luis teamed up with his son

To solve the mystery of dinosaur extinction.

His son, a geologist named Walter,

Showed a three-layered rock to his physicist father—

Limestone on the top, limestone on the bottom.

The clay middle layer was why he called his father.

It was laid down 65 million years ago,

At the time of the dinosaurs' disappearance, so

Luis analyzed it and found iridium—

Which is rare on earth, but space has plenty of.

They then theorized the iridium arrived

When a giant asteroid and the earth collided.

This became the Alvarez Hypothesis.

Some people thought that it was outlandish,

But today it's widely accepted—

Tried, true, and tested via scientific method.

To sum things up, I leave you with this quote

About the man himself from a book that he wrote:

"I will probably be remembered longest for work done with my son Walt in a field about which I knew absolutely nothing until I was sixty-six years old."

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