Mendel’s Tragic/Inspirational Story

* <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gregor-Mendel>
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregor_Mendel>
* Highlights:
  + Born in Austria in 1822
  + Botanist, teacher, prelate (a type of bishop)
  + Smart kid, sent away by family to fancy grammar school and then to fancy 2-year philosophy program at University of Olmutz: was great at math and physics but had a hard time…insufficient family support, had to tutor other students for side cash, was seriously depressed twice.
  + Father’s only son, was expected to take over family farm but chose to go to a monastery instead…joined Augustinian order, given name Gregor
  + Substitute teaching and priest…enjoyed teaching. But they changed the teacher credentialing and he failed the teacher certification test…was sent to University of Vienna for 2 years (start 1850) to brush up on science
    - Physics and math…Christian Doppler (Austrian physicist), Andreas von Ettinghausen (mathematical physicist)
    - Studied anatomy/physiology of plants, learned how to use microscope
  + 1853 went back to monastery. Given teaching position. Tried and failed teacher exam again in 1856.
  + Experiments between 1856 and 1863: grew 28,000 plants (mostly pea)
  + Presented a paper on his pea plants and genetic theory in 1865…was mostly ignored by scientific community, was rediscovered in early 20th century.