

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.