

## **JOHN NASH // PARANOIC SCHIZOPHRENIA**

## **ISSAC NEWTON // BIPOLAR, AUTISM, SCHIZOPHRENIA**

One of the greatest scientists of all time is also the hardest genius to diagnose, but historians agree he had a lot going on. Newton suffered from huge ups and downs in his moods, indicating bipolar disorder, combined with psychotic tendencies. His inability to connect with people could place him on the autism spectrum. He also had a tendency to write letters filled with mad delusions, which some medical historians feel strongly indicates schizophrenia.

## **KURT GÖDEL // PERSECUTORY DELUSIONS**

Gödel was a brilliant logician and mathematician, as well as a contemporary and great friend of Albert Einstein. Einstein's super-intelligence might have made him seem a little odd to the average person, but he doesn't seem to have suffered from any actual mental illnesses. Gödel, on the other hand, thought that someone was out to poison him. He was so sure of this delusion, especially later in life, that he would only eat food that his wife had cooked, and usually made her taste it first, just to be sure. When his wife was hospitalized for six months, Gödel stopped eating and starved to death.

## **Georg Cantor**

Of all the great mathematicians, Cantor most perfectly fulfils the (Hollywood) stereotype that a genius for maths and mental illness are somehow

inextricable. Cantor's most brilliant insight was to develop a way to talk about mathematical infinity. His set theory led to the counter-intuitive discovery that some infinities were larger than others. The result was mind-blowing. Unfortunately he suffered mental breakdowns and was frequently hospitalised. He also became fixated on proving that the works of Shakespeare were in fact written by Francis Bacon.

## Alexander Grothendieck

## Marius Sophus Lie

## Ludwig Boltzmann // severe depression

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## NICOLAI TESLA // obsessive compulsive behavior

## André Bloch

a [French mathematician](#) who is best remembered for his fundamental contribution to [complex analysis](#).

Bloch was [institutionalized](#) in a [mental asylum](#) for thirty-one years of his life, during which all of his mathematical output was produced.