

● Sigmund Freud (1856–1939)

- the well-known Viennese doctor and psychiatrist
- the author of the theory of psychoanalysis

Life in dates

- born on 6 May 1856 in Příbor (Freiberg), Moravia as Sigismund Schlomo Freud – he changed his name to Sigmund when he was 22 years old
- his father, Kallmon Jacob Freud, was 20 years older than his mother, Amalia, née Nathanson; he had two sons from a previous marriage
- Sigmund was the oldest of six children
- at the end of 1859 and beginning of 1860, for economic reasons the family was forced to move first to Leipzig and shortly afterwards to Vienna, where Freud lived until 1938
- in 1873, he completed his studies at grammar school (he completed elementary school and grammar school as one of the best pupils)
- in the same year, he started studying medicine at the university in Vienna (he had originally considered studying law and pursuing a political career, but, influenced by Goethe's *Nature*, he eventually opted for a scientific career and medicine)
- he encountered anti-Semitism for the first time during his studies at the university
- in 1876–1882, he worked at the laboratory of physiology of Ernst Brueck, who became a lifelong role model for him; here, Freud explored the histology of nerve cells
- in 1881 he completed his medical studies
- in the next year he met and became engaged to his future wife, Martha Bernays (1861–1951)
- at the recommendation of his teacher, Freud terminated his research career because of ongoing financial problems, and began preparing to open his own private practice
- in 1883–1885 he worked at the Vienna General Hospital to gain experience
- in 1884, he discovered the analgesic effects of cocaine and began experimenting not only on himself, but also on his patients; he was named senior consultant at the Vienna General Hospital
- in the following years (up to 1887), he published five works on the effects of cocaine
- in 1885, he took a higher doctorate at Vienna University in neuropathology and was awarded a senior lectureship
- in 1885, he went on a study trip to Paris, where he became acquainted with the work of Professor Jean-Martin Charcot; he attended his demonstrational interpretations of cases of hysteria and the effects of hypnosis and suggestion
- in 1886 he opened a private practice; in addition to this, he worked as a neurologist in the Children's Hospital Institute; in September he married Martha
- besides electrotherapy, Freud used hypnosis to treat patients
- in 1887, the Freuds have a daughter, Mathilda
- in 1889, he visited Hippolyt Bernheim in Nancy to learn about his hypnosis techniques; in the same year his son Jean-Martin was born
- in 1891, his son Olivier was born, followed in successive years by Ernst and Sophie
- in 1894, Freud published a study on defensive psychoneuroses
- in the next year, he published a study, with Breuer, on hysteria; a daughter, Anna, is born

- in 1896, Freud's lecture on the sexual aetiology of hysteria met with opposition and resistance among students
- in 1897, Freud observes a breakdown of values in himself; he subsequently defines the Oedipus complex and explores the world of imagination
- in 1899 he published *Interpretation of Dreams* (the book notes cite 1900 as the year of publication)
- in 1902, Freud was appointed an *Ausserordentlicher Professor*; he surrounded himself with a group of students: Alfred Adler, Max Kahane, Rudolf Reitler, Wilhelm Stekel, Hugo Heller, Paul Federn, Max Graf, Eduard Hitschmann, etc.
- in 1909 Freud, accompanied by his students Ferenczi and Jung, travelled to America, where he was invited to deliver a series of lectures at Clark University; his psychoanalysis gradually starts to become known and acknowledged around the world
- at this time, he wrote his studies *Analysis of a Phobia in a Five-Year-Old Boy* and *Notes Upon a Case of Obsessional Neurosis*
- in 1910, a psychoanalytical congress was held in Nurnberg, the International Psychoanalytical Association (IPV) was formed; Freud's pupil and favourite Jung was appointed the president of the association; Freud publishes *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis*
- in 1916-17, he held a series of lectures entitled *Introduction to Psychoanalysis*
- in 1918, he took part in the psychoanalytical congress in Budapest, where there was talk inter alia about the methods of treating war neurosis
- in 1919, Freud wrote the paper *Study of the Origin of Sexual Perversions*
- in 1921, he published *Group Psychology and The Analysis of the Ego*
- in 1923, Freud was first diagnosed with cancer of the palate and underwent his first operation
- in 1927, he published a work on fetishism and a work on religion (*The Future of an Illusion*)
- in 1931, he addressed issues of female sexuality
- in 1933, Freud's books and the books of other Jewish writers and left-wing books were burned in Germany by the National Socialists
- in 1938, Austria was annexed to Nazi Germany; Freud's daughter Anna was interrogated by the Gestapo; the US President Roosevelt and Italian dictator Mussolini intervened with Hitler on Freud's behalf, enabling him to emigrate from Austria
- in June 1938, Freud and all his family travelled to London via Paris
- on 23 September 1939, three weeks after the Second World War broke out, Sigmund Freud died at his home in London
- all four of Freud's sisters who had to remain in Vienna were deported to Terezín and Treblinka; none of them survived

The father of psychoanalysis

- the basic idea of psychoanalysis is to find unconscious sexual causes for most mental problems
- Freud's theory and methods were initially considered as controversial and too revolutionary; they later became modern and accepted
- modern science considers some of his hypotheses to be doubtful or obsolete; however, many of his views about mental disorders and treatment still apply today