NAME DATE CLASS

# Biography Activity

## Mass Society and Democracy

### Albert Einstein (1879–1955)

Albert Einstein was a physicist. He was born to Jewish parents in Ulm, Germany. He studied physics and math in college, and he received his doctorate from the University of Zurich in 1905. That year, he published four major research papers, including two on his special theory of relativity, that changed the way people thought about the universe. This theory asserted that distance and time must be relative, depending on the observer. In 1921, Einstein received the Nobel Prize in Physics. When the Nazi Party took over Germany in 1933, Einstein moved to the United States. During World War II, Einstein supported the construction of nuclear weapons to defeat the Nazis. However, after the war, Einstein tried to prevent the future use of atomic weapons.

**1. Analyzing Information** How did Einstein lead many people to question the nature of reality?

**2. Drawing Inferences** In what way did Einstein question his own scientific achievements?