



# Elon Musk



***Read the passage below and answer the questions on the next page.***

Elon Musk is a South African-born American entrepreneur, engineer, and investor. He is best known as the founder, CEO, and lead designer of SpaceX, co-founder of Tesla Motors, and founder of The Boring Company. Musk has also envisioned a high-speed transportation system known as Hyperloop.

Musk was born in 1971, in provincial South Africa, to a Canadian mother and a South African father. At the age of 12, he sold his first computer game for \$500, which made him realize that entrepreneurship was an option. After completing high school at the age of 17, Musk moved to Canada to attend Queen's University and later transferred to the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned two degrees – one in physics and another in economics.

In 1995, Musk founded Zip2 Corporation with his brother Kimbal. The company provided internet software for newspapers. Four years later, they sold it to Compaq Computers for \$307 million dollars. In 1999 he co-founded X.com, an online financial services/payments company that eventually merged with PayPal; this was sold to eBay for \$1.5 billion in 2002.

Musk was inspired by the space industry and wanted to make a difference there as well. In 2002 he founded SpaceX with the goal of making space travel more affordable. Today, SpaceX is the world's leading private rocket manufacturer and has made significant progress in developing reusable rockets that can land back at their launch site after completing missions. Musk also created Tesla Motors, which designs and manufactures electric cars, solar roofs, and energy storage products – all with the aim of transitioning humanity away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy sources.

Elon Musk continues to be an inspiration to many people around the globe through his ambitious projects and hard work ethic. He is a pioneer of the 21st century and continues to push boundaries with his innovative approaches.

1) Where was Elon Musk born?

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2) What did Elon Musk sell at age 12?

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3) What company did he start in 1995?

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4) Which company did X.com merge with?

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5) What was the goal of SpaceX when it was founded?

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