

# Dorothy Hodgkin

## NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING CHEMIST

Dorothy Hodgkin was born in Egypt in 1910 but spent most of her childhood in England. As a child she loved learning about crystals and chemistry, even though at the time there weren't many girls in science.

She studied science at university and then took a job in scientific research.

When she was 28 years old she started suffering from rheumatoid arthritis. This caused her a lot of pain in all of her joints and made moving around very difficult. However, this didn't hold her back.

In her research she discovered the shapes of important molecules like penicillin, vitamin B12 and insulin. Her work on penicillin helped save millions of lives fighting infections, her discoveries around B12 helped people with blood problems, and her insulin research helped people with diabetes.

In 1964, she won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, the greatest award a scientist can get! To this day she is still the only British woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize for science.



1. Why was it unusual for Dorothy Hodgkin to love crystals and chemistry as a child?
2. Name two groups of people that Hodgkin's research has helped.
3. What can you infer about Dorothy's condition from the word "suffering"?
4. What makes Hodgkin a memorable scientist in Britain? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.
5. In a short paragraph, explain why Dorothy Hodgkin deserves to be considered a STEM Hero.