

A stylized, painterly portrait of Elon Musk. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing a light-colored jacket over a white shirt. He has a slight smile and is holding a black microphone in his right hand. The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of green and yellow brushstrokes, suggesting foliage. A small inset image in the bottom right corner shows a person in a yellow shirt sitting on a blue chair against a red and blue background.

Elon Musk

1. Musk holds South African, Canadian, and U.S. citizenship.

Musk was raised in Pretoria, South Africa, before moving to Canada at age 17. Three years later, he moved to the United States to study business and physics at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.



2. Musk has a net worth of \$21.8 billion.

All that work at Tesla, SpaceX, and PayPal **has really paid off** for Musk. He's currently the 37th-richest person in the world, according to Forbes.



X.com
&
PayPal
P PayPal



3. Musk taught himself computer programming at the age of 9.

He reportedly taught himself the basics of computer programming when he was only 9 years old. Three years later, Musk built a space-themed PC game called *Blastar*. He sold the code for *Blastar* for \$500 to a computer magazine. You can actually still play *Blastar* online.

BLASTAR

JOURNEY TO MARS

START

LEVEL SELECT

HOW TO PLAY

4. Musk dropped out of Stanford after just two days.

After earning two bachelors' degrees (yes, *two*) at the University of Pennsylvania, he moved to California to study Physics at Stanford. But after just two days, he dropped out to found his first company, **Zip2 Corporation**.



Zip2



5. Musk was the inspiration for Tony Stark, a.k.a. Ironman.

The superhero/serial entrepreneur Tony Stark a.k.a Ironman, is **based at least a little bit on Musk**. The actor who plays him, Robert Downey Jr., reportedly wanted to sit down with Musk to get inspiration for the character. Parts of Iron Man 2 were even filmed at SpaceX and Musk made a cameo appearance in the movie.



Elon Musk is Tony Stark



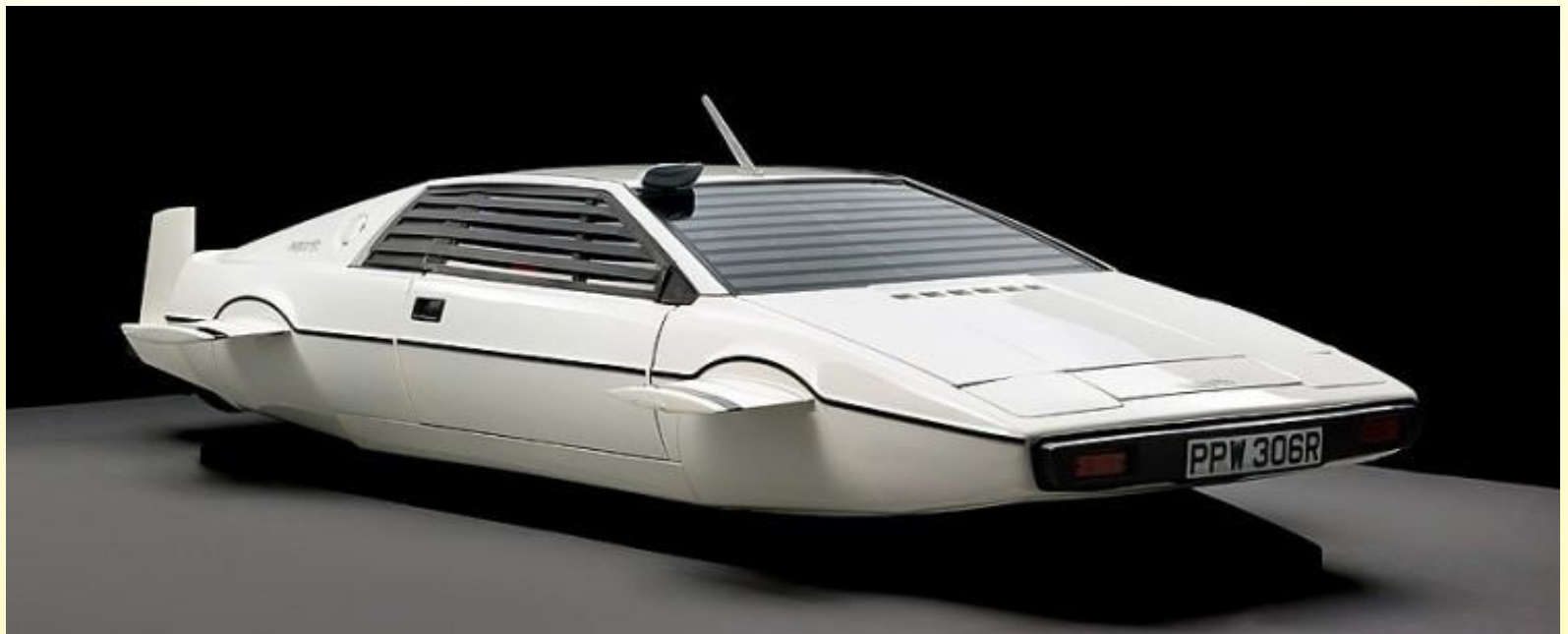
6. Musk's official Tesla salary is way lower than you think.

Musk's total compensation package for Tesla is less than \$40,000, and **he reportedly doesn't even cash the checks**. However, between the 35 million Tesla shares he owns, and his earnings from SpaceX and he's doing alright (see item #2).



7. Musk is the owner of a “submarine car” from a James Bond film.

Musk is the owner of the “Wet Nellie,” a **Lotus submarine car prop** from the 1970s James Bond movie *The Spy Who Loved Me*. He **reportedly plans to convert it** into a real car that transforms into a sub.



8. Musk is a big X-Men fan.

During a Tesla factory upgrade, **Musk decided to name some of the factory's new robots after X-Men characters**, including Xavier, Iceman, Wolverine, Storm, and Colossus. When announcing the factory upgrade, Tesla wrote, “To us, these robots are like superheroes, so we figured they deserved superhero names.”



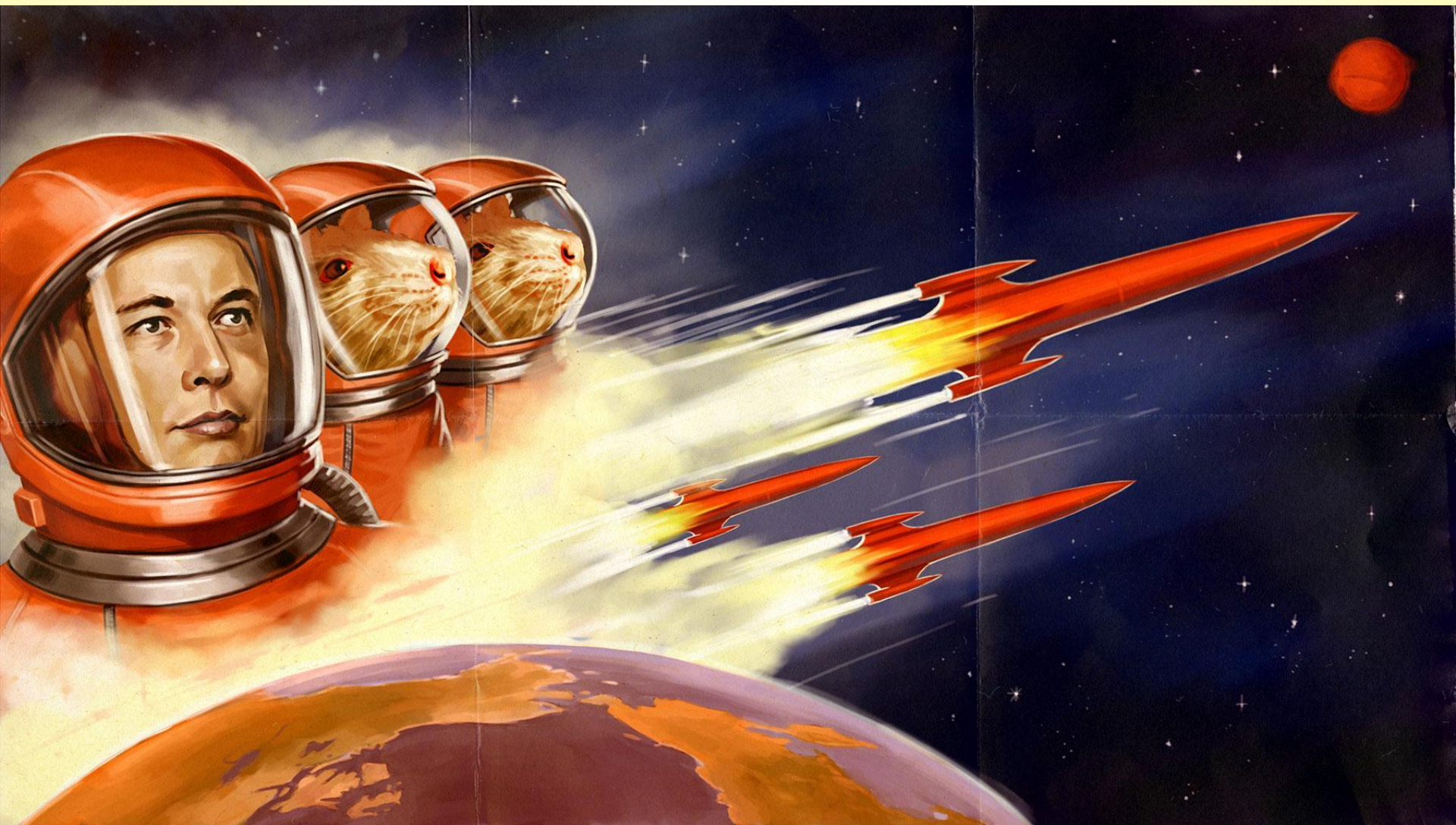
9. Musk ran a nightclub out of his house in college.

When he was attending the University of Pennsylvania, Musk and his roommate decided to escape student housing and **live in a bigger house off-campus**. In order to pay the rent, they turned it into a nightclub that attracted as many as 1,000 patrons per night.



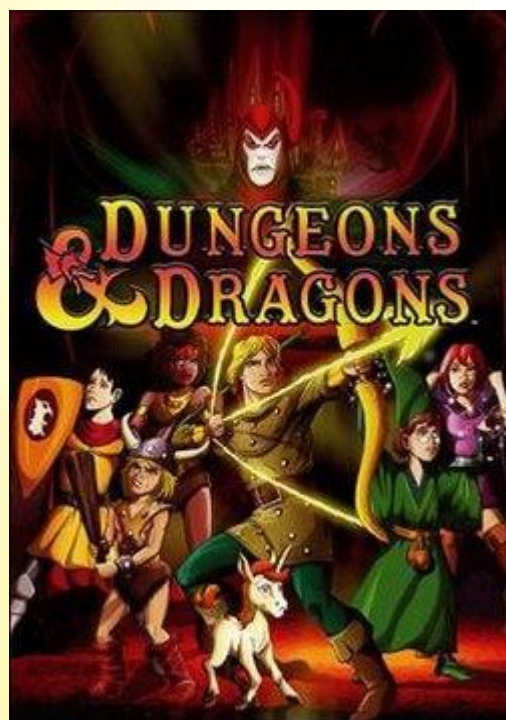
10. Musk started building his own rockets when he was a kid.

A housekeeper would take care of Musk and his siblings when his parents were away. “She wasn’t, like, watching me. I was off making explosives and reading books and building rockets and doing things that could have gotten me killed,” **said Musk**. “I’m shocked that I have all my fingers.”



11. Musk was a master at Dungeons & Dragons.

Musk traveled with his cousins to Johannesburg for a Dungeons & Dragons tournament. “That was us being nerd masters supremes,” Musk told Ashley Vance, author of his **biography**. According to his cousin Peter Rive, Musk helped their team win the tournament with his “incredible imagination” and ability to keep people “captivated and inspired.”



12. Musk used to live on a budget of \$1 a day.

Musk was determined to survive on \$1 a day by buying food at the supermarket in bulk when he arrived in North America. “I went more for the hotdogs and oranges... [but] you do get really tired of hot dogs and oranges after a while,” **explained Musk** — mixing things up every now and then with some “pasta and green pepper and a big thing of sauce” which he said could “go pretty far too.”

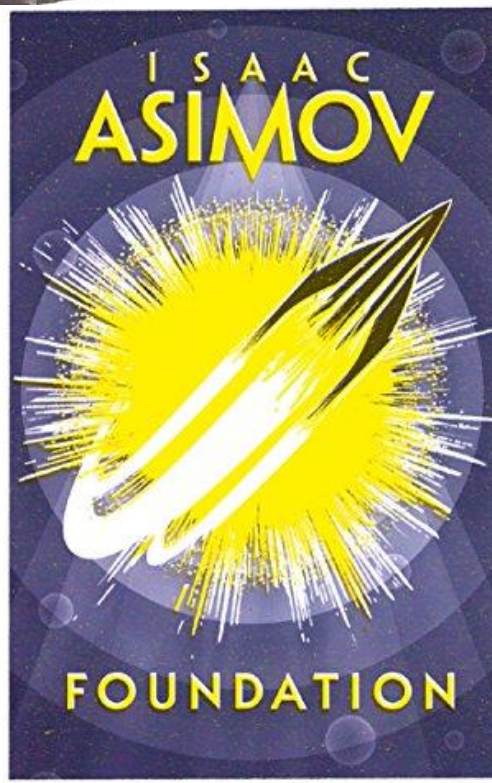
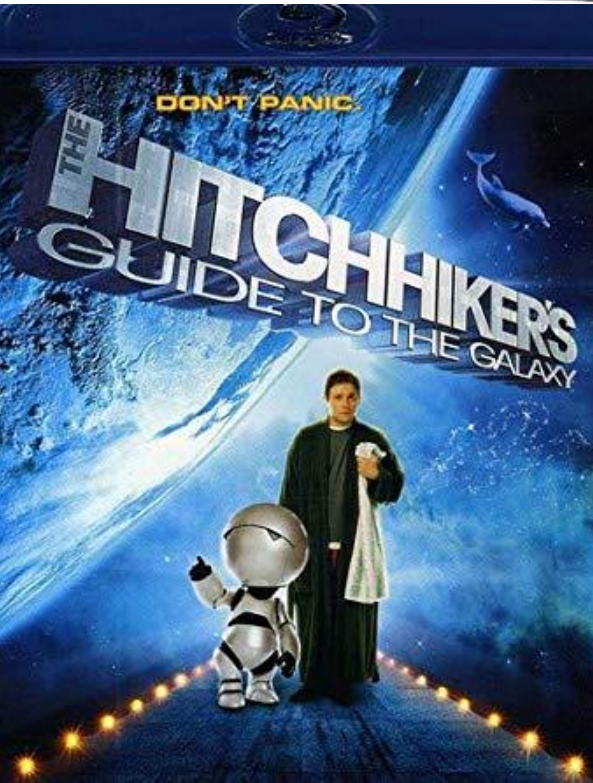
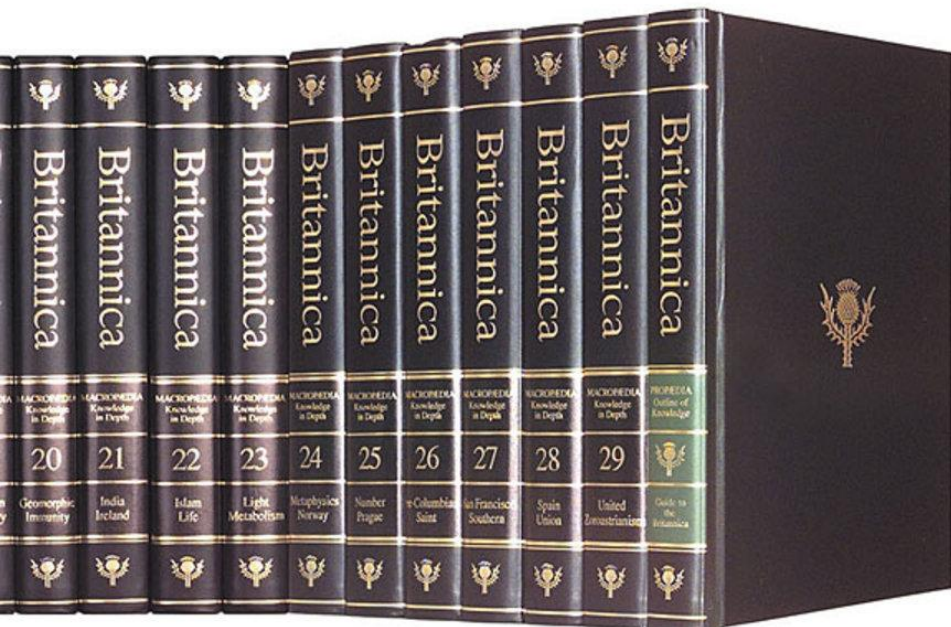


13. Musk tried opening his own video arcade at 16.

Musk **got the idea to open an arcade** by his high school, according to Vance's book. He teamed up with his brother. They got as far as signing a lease, setting contracts together, and filling out forms at the city planning department. But their plans were foiled when the city told them they were too young.

14. Musk read the entire encyclopedia at 9 years old.

Musk said, “I was raised by books. Books, and then my parents.” He would pore over books for up to 10 hours a day. He reportedly read the entire *Encyclopedia Britannica* **at age nine** and moved on to sci-fi and fantasy favorites **including** *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*, and Isaac Asimov’s *Foundation* series.



YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

Be successful