



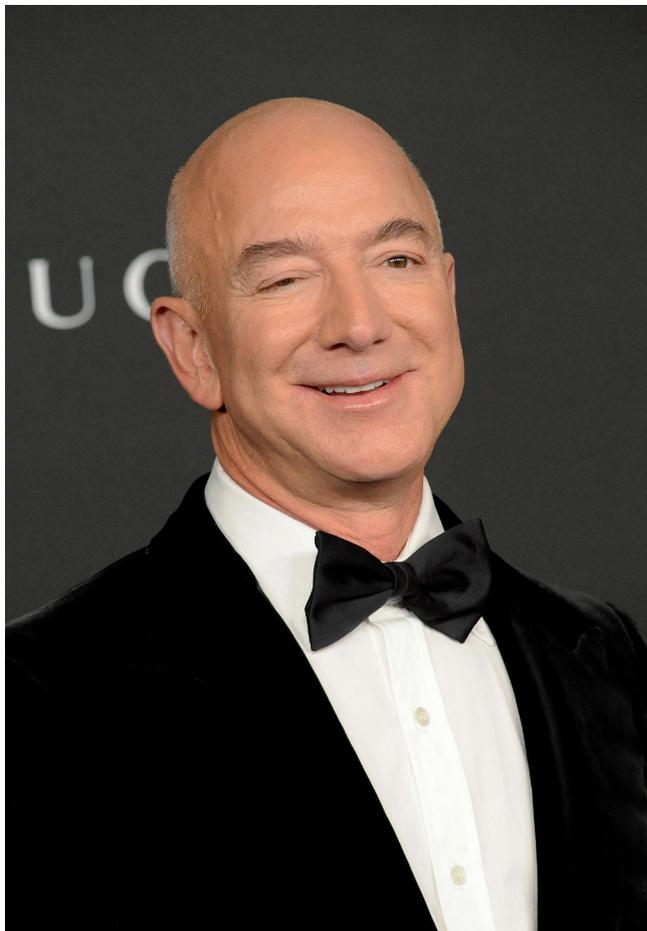
## 2021: Jeff Bezos announced he was stepping down as Amazon CEO after 30 years to become chairman (US)

### Jeff Bezos' empire

Jeff Bezos is an American entrepreneur. He is the founder and executive chairman of Amazon (which he originally intended to call Cadabra, changing his mind when he was told the name sounded like "cadaver"). In 2021, he was the second-wealthiest man on Earth (behind Elon Musk) with a net worth of around US\$200 billion.

When he was born, his mother was still a teenager whose marriage to Jeff's father only lasted for a year. Bezos is the surname of his stepfather, a Cuban immigrant named Mike Bezos. Jeff Bezos said in an interview that he considers Bezos to be his "natural father", as he has no memory of his biological father. Rumours say he was a very clever kid. At age three, he apparently tried to dismantle his crib with a screwdriver to make a bigger bed. He also set up a science laboratory in his parents' garage in which he built an electric alarm to keep his siblings out of his bedroom.

He claims he was always fascinated by space travel and, in July 2021, he took an 11-minute trip to space aboard a spacecraft developed by his own company, Blue Origin. Bezos and his crew flew 62 miles above Earth and spent four minutes in zero gravity. In December 2021, an Amazon warehouse collapsed in Illinois when a tornado hit it, killing at least six workers. Jeff Bezos was strongly criticised for celebrating the third Blue Origin launch before addressing the accident.



### Teaching ideas

★★★ **LYCÉE – Les univers professionnels, le monde du travail** - Team up with economics teachers and ask pupils to prepare an interview of Jeff Bezos in which they will deal with his wealth and projects. You can also have them work in groups on other famous entrepreneurs such as Mark Zuckerberg, Elon Musk, Oprah Winfrey, Melanie Perkins, Bill Gates...