

BY C.L. LANEY

# ELON MUSK

INNOVATOR AND ENTREPRENEUR



# CHAPTER 1

## Who Is Elon Musk?

“I want to be able to think about the future and feel good about that.” These are the words of Elon Musk. The future of the world drives him. His unusual ideas center on making a better tomorrow. Many people think his plans are outrageous. But Musk believes anything is possible.

Musk is an **entrepreneur**. He builds businesses. They aren't regular companies though. All of his projects have been life-changing. How? Global problems are the focus. Climate change is one. Space travel is another. He even started a company that makes computer chips. These would go in the brain. Musk hopes they will fix problems like memory loss.

An early company of Musk's was X.com. He founded it in 1999. This was one of the first online banks. X.com made digital banking possible for just about anyone. Later, it became PayPal. Musk sold the company. That's how he made his first billion dollars.

Then Musk looked outside the banking world. He had an idea. People should be able to travel to space. It should be affordable and efficient. Musk set out to build rockets to make this possible. This concept is changing how the world views space travel.

One of Elon Musk's first businesses was a digital banking company that eventually became PayPal.



Musk dreams of making space travel possible for everyday people.



As CEO of several well-known companies, Musk is a thought leader for change and innovation.



Today, Musk wears many hats. He is the **CEO** of SpaceX. This company was founded in 2002. It works closely with NASA. That is a U.S. government agency. Research and technology related to space are its focus.

Musk is also the CEO of Tesla. Its vision is to move the world to clean energy. The company's electric cars are popular. Tesla makes other products too. These include solar panels and batteries.

The CEO comes up with new ideas often. His **offbeat** thinking has made him a hero to some. Others think he is too bold. Still, Musk remains focused. He is intent on changing the world.



# CHAPTER 2

## The World We Live In

Earth faces many problems. Climate change is one. The planet's average temperature keeps going up. Most scientists think this is due to human activity. Cars put out gases. Factories do too. These change Earth's **atmosphere**. More heat gets trapped. Then temperatures rise.

Effects of climate change show up in different ways. One is the weather. Higher temperatures are being recorded in all seasons. Stronger hurricanes form. **Droughts** last longer. Wildfires rage across larger areas. Ice caps melt more quickly. This causes sea levels to rise.



Many people are worried. Can climate change be stopped? It would take big changes. Some think humans will soon need another place to live. Other planets have been considered. But space travel is very expensive. Plus, NASA ended its shuttle program in 2011. This has left a gap in space exploration.

These are challenges that Musk is taking on. He believes in a better future. Clean energy can help. Electric cars and solar panels could be steps in the right direction. Exploring the resources of space may benefit us too. Musk is testing these solutions and more.

Our world faces serious problems. Big ideas are needed to solve them. Musk is up to the task.



NASA's final space shuttle mission launched on July 8, 2011.



In addition to electric vehicles, Musk's Tesla corporation has introduced roof tiles that convert solar energy into usable electricity but look similar to traditional roofs.

Elon Musk was born in the country of South Africa, which sits at the southernmost point of the African continent.

