

Was electricity invented or discovered

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Essentially, electricity is a form of energy resulting from the presence and movement of electric charges - the flow of electrons. This energy, of course, powers just about everything you own, from your TV, toothbrush, lightbulbs, and even the fastest plane in the world.

American polymath Benjamin Franklin is most credited for discovering electricity in 1752. In an experiment, he attached a wire to a kite in a thunderstorm, which showed that lightning consists of electricity.

However, despite this seminal experiment, no one person can be credited with discovering electricity. Instead, several individuals made contributions to the study of electricity over centuries. These include...

Greek philosopher Thales of Miletus discovered that rubbing amber (fossilised tree sap) with animal fur would attract objects like feathers. Without truly knowing it, he had noticed the effects of magnetism and static electricity.

In his book *De Magnete*, English scientist William Gilbert coined the term "electricus" in 1600, which means "amber-like". Polymath Sir Thomas Browne later altered the word slightly, changing it to "electricity" in 1646

Building on Gilbert and Browne's work, German scientist Otto von Guericke successfully produced static electricity by rotating a ball of sulfur with a crank and using his free hand to rub the rotating sulfur.

In 1745, the two scientists invented the Leyden jar. This was a key invention in the build-up of our understanding of electricity. The Leyden jar was a glass jar or vial coated on the inside and outside with metal foil. This device was able to store electricity.

A metal key was tied to the string of the kite to conduct the electricity from lightning and it worked (giving him a shock). This experiment is credited with sparking the idea of using electricity as a power source.

Alessandro Volta was an Italian physicist who invented the first electric battery, known as the "voltaic pile" in 1800. This device produced a steady flow of electrical current and was a significant advancement in the field.

Faraday, an English scientist, made groundbreaking discoveries in the field of electromagnetism. He formulated the laws of electromagnetic induction and demonstrated the generation of electricity through moving magnetic fields. Faraday's work laid the foundation for the development of electric generators and transformers.

Edison, an American inventor, is renowned for his contributions to the practical application of electricity. He developed the first successful practical electric light bulb and established the world's first electric power

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distribution system, which was crucial in bringing electricity into homes and businesses.

Tesla, a Serbian-American inventor and engineer, made numerous advancements in the field of electrical engineering. He pioneered alternating current (AC) power transmission, which revolutionised the way electricity is generated, transmitted, and distributed.

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