

Tesla

Here's a question. Who made the radio, neon lights and the laser?

One man. Nikola Tesla. He's not a famous inventor like Edison. But, his work changed the world.

Tesla was born in Serbia in 1856 and died in 1943 in New York City. In 1884, he moved to America and worked for Thomas Edison. He left after a year because Edison did not pay him. Tesla quit and started his own company.

Tesla was very intelligent. He spoke 8 languages. He could read a book and remember everything in it. He was also good at thinking up new ideas.

Sometimes he imagined things that were not possible. For example, he said wireless phones would be used in the future. Today, we call that a mobile phone.

Sometimes, he imagined things and built them. His most important idea was AC electricity. That's the power we use in our homes and offices.

When Tesla first made AC, there was a problem with Edison. He wanted to sell DC electricity. AC was better because it moves long distances without losing much power. AC was also cheaper. If a city wanted DC, they needed many power stations because it loses power when it moves long distances.

Tesla had some strange habits. He was always washing his hands. He did not like to shake hands with people and he loved number 3. He would walk around a building 3 times before going in.

This great scientist made more than 200 things. Many of these machines are still used today. Sadly, he was not good at business and died a poor man.

That's different from Edison. He made things that people wanted and he made money.

Tesla's life shows us that it's good to be intelligent. It's also important to be good at business.

Galileo

Can one person change the world? Sometimes yes. That's why Galileo is such a critical figure. He transformed our understanding of the world and taught us the importance of science.

Galileo's story begins in Italy in 1609. He was a math teacher. One day, he heard about an invention. It was a telescope. It didn't work especially well, so he modified the glass to increase the zoom power.

He gazed into space and studied stars, planets and moons. He watched them reveal orbits and discovered patterns. When he combined this knowledge with math, he created astronomy.

He wrote numerous books. His first one in 1610 was called *Starry Messenger*. It made him a celebrity. People loved reading about distant stars that were not visible.

Not everyone enjoyed his books. The Catholic Church thought they were dangerous. And that was a problem.

The Church was powerful. Disagreeing with or criticizing its rules, stories or philosophy was considered a serious offence. Opponents of the Church were injured or killed.

Church leaders declared Earth the center of the universe. How did they know that? Because of some sentences in the Bible. That was the proof.

Galileo had a different opinion. Earth was not the center. How did he know that? He developed theories based on scientific principles and knowledge.

In 1616, the Church issued a warning to Galileo. Stop writing books that say the sun is the center of the universe.

For years, Galileo agreed, but in 1632 he published another book. He used science to say some Church stories were inaccurate. Science, not the Bible, helps us understand the world.

Catholic leaders were angry. They forced Galileo to admit he was mistaken. If he refused, he would be tortured. Galileo agreed, but he did not believe it. The Church put him under house arrest for the rest of his life. He died ten years later in 1642.

Galileo wanted to tell the truth based on experiments and proof, not fear and stories. Because of his achievements, science was able to achieve great things in the years ahead. And it's all thanks to a man with a telescope.

Curie

Marie Curie won two Nobel Prizes and was the first female professor employed by a European university. Her life is a story of focus, difficulty and achievement.

She was born in Poland in 1867. When she was eleven, her oldest sister and mother died. Despite these considerable challenges, she graduated high school as the top student.

Marie and her other sister dreamed about attending university in France, but they did not have enough money. So they made a plan. Marie worked and paid for her sister's education. After her sister graduated, she paid for Marie's education.

Marie worked as a home teacher. In her spare time, she read science books. When she was 24, she went to university in Paris.

She did not have much money so she survived on bread, butter and tea. She was often tired and ill. Although student life was tough, Marie finished as the top student in her class.

While working in a lab doing experiments, she met a bright scientist and researcher. He was Pierre Curie. They married in 1895.

In 1903, they won the Nobel Prize in Physics for their work with radioactivity. Initially, the Nobel team did not want to give the honor to a woman. Pierre complained and demanded that Marie share the award.

Pierre died in an accident a few years later. The day after the funeral, Marie returned to work. One month later, she was teaching at Sorbonne University. She took Pierre's old job. That is how Marie became the first female professor in Europe.

Marie won a second Nobel Prize in 1911. This one was a chemistry prize for her work with radium and polonium. Radium was important for x-rays and treating cancer.

Marie died in 1934 from a disease caused by radiation. One year later, her daughter Irene won a chemistry Nobel Prize.

Marie Curie was a talented scientist. Her life teaches us that success requires drive and courage.

Mystery Woman

This is a true story about Joanne.

Born in England, she liked to tell stories when she was young.

After growing up, Joanne worked in an office. She wasn't happy because she wanted to write.

One day on a train to London, she had an idea. It was a story about a special boy. When she got home, she started to write. She wrote about it every day.

A few years later, Joanne moved to Portugal. Later, she met a man, got married and had a girl. Joanne continued to write.

There were problems in Portugal, so she returned to England with her girl. Joanne had no job and life was difficult, but she didn't stop writing.

Five years after starting, her book was finished. Now she wanted to sell it. She sent the book to many book companies. No one wanted it. Then she sent it to a man named Christopher Little. He liked her book and took it to a company called Bloombury. They made the book.

The book was a best seller. Kids around the world loved reading about Harry.

Do you know who she is? She is J.K. Rowling, the creator of Harry Potter.