

The World's Most Important Scientific Achievements



1679

The Discovery of Gravity

Sir Isaac Newton – Lincolnshire, England

Today, Newton's Three Laws of Motion can be used to understand how planes stay up in the sky. It's all about getting the right balance of forces: drag, thrust, lift, and weight.



1796

The First Surgery Under General Anaesthesia

Hanaoka Seishū – Osaka, Japan

By mixing special plants together to make a potion called tsūsensan, Hanaoka Seishū performed the world's first pain-free surgery.

He was soon the most popular surgeon in Japan!



1796

The First Vaccine is Created

Edward Jenner – Gloucestershire, England

Over 200 years after Edward Jenner created his vaccine, smallpox has become the first human disease to completely disappear from the world – saving countless lives.



1953

The Discovery of DNA Structure

James Watson and Francis Crick – Cambridge, England

Did you know that much of the work behind the discovery was done by a woman?

Thanks to Rosalind Franklin, we now use DNA to solve crimes, understand the things we inherit in our genes, and even cure diseases!



1928

The Discovery of Penicillin

Sir Alexander Fleming – London, England

Alexander Fleming noticed that bacteria couldn't grow on his old, mouldy petri dishes – and discovered penicillin.

It's now the most widely used antibiotic in the world.



1799

Volta Invents the Battery

Alessandro Volta – Pavia, Italy

The first battery was called the Voltaic Pile, and was made of copper, zinc, and sulfuric acid.

Imagine how different cars, mobile phones and laptops would be without batteries!



1964

The Invention of Liquid Crystal Displays

George H. Heilmeyer – Princeton, USA

Today, LCD screens can be found everywhere from your mobile phone to your microwave – but it all started with electric currents changing the shape of liquid crystals.



1970s

The Birth of the GPS

Gladys West – Virginia, USA

Gladys West used data and computers to model the shape of the earth more accurately than ever before. Without her work, Google Maps and sat navs wouldn't exist!



1991

The World Wide Web is Invented

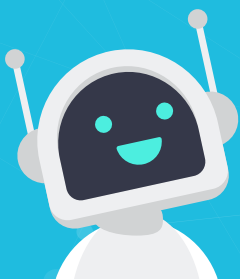
Sir Tim Berners-Lee – England

Computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee created the world's first web browser, and all the fundamental protocols and algorithms that would allow the internet to grow. Look how big it is now!

The Future – Who knows?

Since the 1990s, science and technology have advanced at an incredible rate. With social media, mobile technology, and new inventions emerging every day, the world today is unrecognisable compared to when our parents were children.

And it's all thanks to the clever people studying biology, chemistry, and physics. What inventions would you like to see in the world? You never know, you could invent the next one!



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