

Nicolas Léonard Sadi Carnot
AD 1796 – AD 1832



French physicist who accounted for the flow of heat in heat engines, invented the concept of engine efficiency as a measurable quantity, and formulated an early version of the second law of thermodynamics.

James Prescott Joules
AD 1818 – AD 1889



English physicist who developed a method of equating heat and mechanical energy.

Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier
AD 1768 – AD 1830



French mathematician who developed a method of analyzing heat and mechanical energy as separate entities.

Rudolf Julius Emanuel Clausius
AD 1822 – AD 1888



German physicist whose study of Carnot's principles led to the demise of the "caloric" definition of heat as a fluid, and a new formulation of the laws of thermodynamics.

AD 1770

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