



William Gilbert

AD 1544 – AD 1603

English physicist and promoter of Copernicus. He realized that electricity and magnetism were related but separate phenomena, and determined that the eart...

Stephen Grey

AD 1602 – AD 1686

Grey discovered that electrical charge could flow through string and wire, and leak away from the static electricity “gene...



Otto von Guericke

AD 1666 – AD 1736

German scientist and inventor, he established a method of using pumps to create a vacuum, and experimented with air pressure. His later research focussed on ele...



Benjamin Franklin

AD 1706 – AD 1790

American scientist and inventor. He thought the two kinds of electrical fluid identified by duFay were really a single kind under different pressure, and name...



Charles Coulomb

AD 1736 – AD 1806

French physicist who developed Coulomb’s law, specifying the electrostatic force as a function of the amount of charge and separation from the source, similar i...



Joseph Priestley

AD 1733 – AD 1804

English/American scientist who discovered oxygen, and defended the phlogiston theory. He also wrote a long history on the study of electricity, discovered th...



Luigi Galvani

AD 1737 – AD 1798

Italian physicist and physician who showed that nerve impulses were electrical in nature; he found the study of bioelectricity.



Hans Christian Ørsted

AD 1777 – AD 1851

Danish physicist who, along with Ampere, established that electrical currents induce magnetic fields.



Michael Faraday

AD 1791 – AD 1867

Self-taught English experimental scientist who invented electrical motors, electral generators, the concept of an electrical "field" of force, discovered benzene, an...



Joseph Henry

AD 1797 – AD 1878

American scientist (first secretary of the Smithsonian) who discovered self-inductance and worked with Faraday on hte discovery of mutual inductance.



James Clerk Maxwell

AD 1831 – AD 1879

Scottish theoretical physicist who simplified the rules of electrical and magnetic phenomena into four simple laws, then identified electromagnetic waves a...



André-Marie Ampere

AD 1775 – AD 1836

French physicist and mathematician who determined the relationship between the amount of electrical current in a wire and the resulting magnetic force.



Georg Simon Ohm

AD 1789 – AD 1854

German physicist who used Volta’s electrical cell to study the effects of current flow through different substances, resulting in the discovery of Ohm’s la...



Allesandro Volta

AD 1745 – AD 1827

Volta drew on Galvani’s work, and inventor of the “voltaic pile”, an early form of electrical battery.



Charles sFracois de Cisternay du Fay

AD 1698 – AD 1739

Determined that there were two kinds of electricity, vibreous (positive) and resinous (negative). Formulated the rule that like charges repel one another and opp...