

Anders Celsius



Date and place of birth	27 November 1701 Uppsala, Sweden
Date and place of death	25 April 1744 Uppsala, Sweden
Nationality	Swedish
Area in which (s)he worked	Astronomy, Physics, Mathematics, Geology
Education	Uppsala University
Worked in	Royal Society
Known for	Celsius temperature scale
Awards	-----

Anders Celsius was a Swedish astronomer. He was born in Uppsala, Sweden on 27 November 1701. As the son of an astronomy professor, Nils Celsius, and the grandson of the mathematician Magnus Celsius, he chose career in science. Celsius studied at Uppsala University, where his father was a teacher, and in 1730 he too, became a professor of astronomy there.

Celsius traveled frequently in the early 1730s, including to Germany, Italy and France, when he visited most of the major European observatories. Celsius was the first to perform and publish careful experiments aiming at the definition of an international temperature scale on scientific grounds. In his Swedish paper "Observations of two persistent degrees on a thermometer" he reports on experiments to check that the freezing point is independent of latitude (and of atmospheric pressure). He determined the dependence of the boiling of water with atmospheric pressure which was accurate even by modern-day standards. He further gave a rule for the determination of the boiling point if the barometric pressure deviates from a certain standard pressure. He proposed the Celsius temperature scale in a paper to the Royal Society of Sciences in Uppsala, the oldest Swedish scientific society, founded in 1710. His thermometer was calibrated with a value of 100° for the freezing point of water and 0° for the boiling point. In 1745, a year after Celsius' death, the scale was reversed by Carl Linnaeus to facilitate more practical measurement. Celsius originally called his scale centigrade derived from the Latin for "hundred steps". For years it was simply referred to as the Swedish thermometer.

In 1725 he became secretary of the Royal Society of Sciences in Uppsala, and served at this post until his death from tuberculosis in 1744. He supported the formation of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm in 1739 by Linnaeus and five others, and was elected a member at the first meeting of this academy. It was in fact Celsius who proposed the new academy's name.

His grave can be found near Uppsala. He was one of the excellent scientists of 18th century.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anders Celsius". The script is cursive and elegant, with a large initial 'A' and 'C'.

his signature