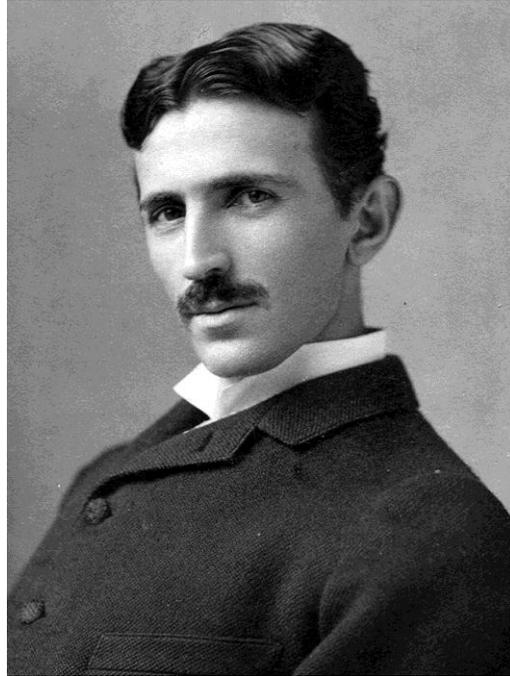


Nikola Tesla



Date of birth	10th of July 1856
Place of birth	Smiljan, Croatia (Kingdom of Hungary)
Date and place of death	7th of January 1943, New York, USA
Nationality	Serbian
Area in which he worked	Physics, Invention, Philosophy, electrical and mechanical engineering
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gymnasium Karlovac• Graz University of Technology
Worked in	high-voltage, high-frequency power experiments
Known for	146 inventions (radio, remote control, etc.)
Awards	Edison, Scott and Crason medals, member of the New York and Serbian Academy of Sciences

He was born in 10 July, 1856, village of Smiljan. His father, Milutin Tesla was an Orthodox priest and his mother, Đuka Tesla had a talent crafting home-made tools and at memorizing Serbian poems, though she never had a formal education. Nikola had an older brother (he died in a horse-riding accident) and 3 sisters.

Later, in 1870, Tesla moved to Karlovac to attend school at the Higher Real Gymnasium. That's where he became interested in demonstrations of electricity by his physics professor. Tesla noted that these demonstrations of this "mysterious phenomena" made him want "to know more of this wonderful force". He was able to perform integral calculus, so his teacher thought he was cheating.

In 1875 Tesla enrolled at Austrian Polytechnic in Graz, Austria, on a Military Frontier scholarship. During his first year, Tesla never missed a lecture, earned the highest grades possible, passed nine exams (nearly twice as many as required).

During his second year, Tesla came into conflict with Professor Poeschl. At the end of his second year, Tesla lost his scholarship and became addicted to gambling. He never graduated from the university and did not receive grades for the last semester.

In December 1878 Tesla left Graz and severed all relations with his family to hide the fact that he had been dropped out of school.

In 1881 Tesla moved to Budapest to work under Ferenc Puskás at a telegraph company, the Budapest Telephone Exchange. Within a few months, Tesla was allocated the chief electrician position.

In June 1884, he emigrated to New York City. He was hired by Thomas Edison to work at his Edison Machine Works on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Tesla's work for Edison began with simple electrical engineering and quickly progressed to solving more difficult problems.

In 1885, he said that he could re-design Edison's inefficient motor and generators, making an improvement in both service and economy. According to Tesla, Edison remarked, "There's fifty thousand dollars in it for you—if you can do it." After months of work, Tesla fulfilled the task and asked about payment. Edison, saying that he was only joking, replied, "Tesla, you don't understand our American humor." Instead, Edison offered a US\$10-a-week raise over Tesla's US\$18 per week salary; Tesla refused the offer and immediately quit.

After leaving Edison's company, Tesla partnered with two businessmen in 1886, Robert Lane and Benjamin Vail, who agreed to finance an electric lighting company in Tesla's name, Tesla Electric Light & Manufacturing. They eventually forced Tesla out, leaving him penniless. He had to work at various electrical repair jobs and as a ditch digger for \$2 per day.

On 30 July 1891, aged 35, Tesla became a naturalized citizen of the United States. He established his South Fifth Avenue laboratory in New York City, and later another at 46 E. Houston Street. He lit electric lamps wirelessly at both locations, demonstrating the potential of wireless power transmission. In the same year, he patented the Tesla coil.

Starting in 1894, Tesla began investigating what he referred to as radiant energy of "invisible" kinds after he had noticed damaged film in his laboratory in previous experiments (later identified as "Roentgen rays" or "X-Rays").

On 11 July 1934 the *New York Herald Tribune* published an article on Tesla.

In 1898 Tesla demonstrated a radio-controlled boat—which he dubbed "teleautomaton"—to the public during an electrical exhibition at Madison Square Garden. The crowd that witnessed the demonstration made outrageous claims about the workings of the boat, such as magic, telepathy, and being piloted by a trained monkey hidden inside. Tesla tried to sell his idea to the U.S. military as a type of radio-controlled torpedo, but they showed little interest.

On 7 January 1943, at the age of 86, Tesla died alone in room 3327 of the New Yorker Hotel. Assistant medical examiner H.W. Wembly examined the body and ruled that the cause of death had been coronary thrombosis.