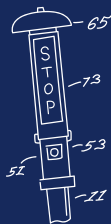


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AMERICA'S
250TH

1776-2026

American Innovation
EDITION

Nikola Tesla

Engineer and Inventor

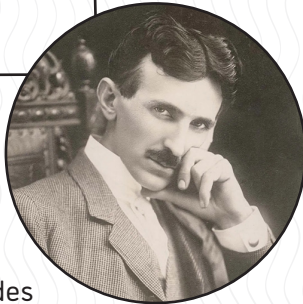


Image Credit: Britannica

Nikola Tesla was born in the Austrian Empire in 1856 and moved to the United States in 1884. He had over 300 patents and inventions. This includes alternating current (AC). AC is the type of current that comes from wall outlets today. COSI's Electricity stage show explores some of these topics!

Cool Fact:

Nikola Tesla was the inspiration behind Tesla, Inc. The energy company is known for many products like electric vehicles!



Josephine Cochrane

Inventor



Image Credit: USPTO

Josephine Cochrane was born in Ohio in 1839. She invented the dishwashing machine. It used water pressure to help clean the dishes. She founded the Crescent Washing Machine Company. Today, they sell dishwashers under the brand name KitchenAid.

Cool Fact:

In 2013, Josephine Cochrane's face was added to a postage stamp in Romania for World Intellectual Property Day.



Ruth Graves Wakefield

Dietitian and Chef

Ruth and her husband Kenneth ran a small inn called the Toll House Inn. Ruth was in charge of the inn's menu, which became well known for its desserts. One day, Ruth tried something new. She broke pieces of a chocolate bar, given to her by Andrew Nestlé, and put it into cookie dough. From this experiment, chocolate chip cookies were born!



Image Credit: INTERFOTO / Alamy Stock Photo



Cool Fact:

The Nestlé company bought the rights to Ruth Graves Wakefield's cookie recipe for \$1. In return, they gave her unlimited chocolate for her baking!

Granville Woods

Engineer and Inventor

Granville Woods was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1856. He was a mechanical and electrical engineer who worked on communication equipment. He invented a way for trains to talk with dispatchers and other trains while moving. One of his inventions is the basis for the 'third rail' of modern electric train systems.



Image Credit: Cosmopolitan Magazine Cover, 1895



Did you know?

Granville Woods earned over 60 patents as an inventor!

Temple Grandin, Ph.D

Professor, Inventor and Advocate

Dr. Temple Grandin is a professor of Animal Sciences. Her research on animal behavior has helped us treat livestock, like cows, better. Dr. Grandin designed meat processing facilities that reduce stress for the animals. Dr. Grandin also advocates for Neurodivergent people and is on the Autism Spectrum.



Image Credit: Flickr, licensed under CC BY 2.0. Photo by ACC District

Did you know?

Dr. Grandin invented a hug machine that squeezes the user for stress relief. It is modeled after squeeze chutes used for cattle.



Lynn Conway

Engineer and Inventor

Lynn Conway invented Dynamic Instruction Scheduling (DIS), which made computers work faster. In 2020, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the IBM Corporation. Lynn was a transgender woman who advocated for rights for transgender people.



Image Credit: Charles Rogers, licensed under CC BY-SA 2.5

Did you know?

Conway holds 5 U.S. Patents and is in the National Inventors Hall of Fame.



Dana Bolles

Engineer and Advocate

Dana Bolles is an External Information Technology Lead for NASA. Part of her job is to run the science.nasa.gov website! She has worked at NASA since 1995 in a lot of different jobs. Dana is an advocate for people with disabilities in the STEM field. She was born without arms or legs.



Image Credit: NASA/Aubrey Gemignani



Cool Fact:

Dana Bolles is an ambassador for AstroAccess. AstroAccess studies tools that will help people with disabilities in space exploration.

Nainoa Thompson

Navigator

(Charles) Nainoa Thompson is a Native Hawaiian navigator and voyager. He traveled from Hawaii to Polynesia without modern navigation technology. He sailed using methods that were used in the 14th century (the 1300's)! He is the first person to use those methods in more than 500 years. Nainoa invented the modern star compass.



Image Credit: DVIDS



Cool Fact:

The star compass isn't a physical compass. It is a technique that uses the horizon and stars to navigate while on the ocean.



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