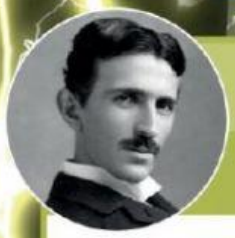


Nikola Tesla:
The genius of modern machinery

You may have heard of Tesla—the car manufacturer at the cutting edge of the electric car revolution. But do you know anything about the man who gave his name to the company? Nikola Tesla was an inventor who helped to develop the modern AC (alternating current) motor. Without this brilliant invention, the car industry would be very different today.

Nikola Tesla should be as famous as Thomas Edison, who is best known for inventing the commercial light bulb. However, despite his work on the AC motor, radio technology, and wireless communication, Tesla was more famous during his lifetime for his eccentric personality and a terrible argument with Edison. He received frequent criticism and rejection, even though his inventions have had an enormous impact on the way we live our lives today.

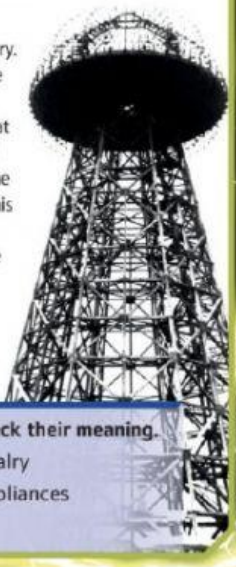
Tesla was born in Smiljan, now a part of Croatia, in 1856. His talent for scientific inventions was obvious from an early age. Although he never completed a university degree, he started working for the Edison electrical company in Paris in 1882. Two years later, he moved to the U.S. to work for Edison's company there.

At the time, Tesla was also working on his designs for the AC induction motor, but Edison used him to improve the design of his own engine, a different type known as a DC (direct current) motor. The two men did not get along, and the differences in their personalities forced Tesla to leave the company.

However, Paul Westinghouse, the owner of a large electrical company, believed in Tesla's ideas, and bought his designs in 1888 in order to manufacture the AC engines. This started a rivalry between Tesla and Edison. Edison launched a campaign to promote his DC engine, and publicly criticized Tesla's design, calling it highly dangerous.

In 1893, Tesla's AC motor was used to provide lighting at an important exhibition in Chicago. Then, in 1900, he received money to design a tower known as the Wardenclyffe Tower. Tesla believed the tower could provide the world with free electricity and wireless communication, including pictures, messages, and weather warnings. But people lost confidence in his ideas, and in 1906 the project was abandoned. Increasingly, Tesla's inventions didn't develop further than ideas, and he died alone and in debt in 1943.

Today, however, it's a different story. While Edison's DC motor has gone out of fashion, Tesla's AC motors power many of the appliances that we use in everyday life. More and more people are learning his name and discovering the brilliance of his inventions. Long after his death, Nikola Tesla is finally receiving the recognition he deserves.



Check it out!

Find these words and check their meaning.

cutting edge
despite
rejection
rivalry
appliances

Reading

1 098 **Read and listen to the article. Write *T* (true) or *F* (false) next to the statements.**

Tesla helped invent an engine that is used in electric cars. T

1 Tesla only designed engines. [ ]
2 Edison designed a different type of motor. [ ]
3 Westinghouse wanted to produce Edison's engines. [ ]
4 The Wardenclyffe Tower is still working today. [ ]
5 People often didn't believe in Tesla's ideas. [ ]
6 Tesla's inventions are now more popular than they were during his lifetime. [ ]

2 Answer the questions.

Which inventor should Tesla be as famous as?
He should be as famous as Thomas Edison.

1 When was Tesla born?
2 Where did Tesla work in Paris?
3 What did Tesla do at Edison's company in the U.S.?
4 What did Edison do when Westinghouse bought Tesla's designs?
5 What did Tesla believe the Wardenclyffe Tower could do?
6 Why was the Wardenclyffe project abandoned in 1906?
7 When did Tesla die?