

1. When Alfred Nobel was born in Stockholm in 1833, his father had a reputation as an inventor.
2. Like his father, Alfred taught himself much of what he learned, and by the time he was a young man, his knowledge was extraordinary.
3. In his family's factory, which produced munitions for the Russian army, Alfred became fascinated by explosives.
4. When the end of the Crimean War brought a reversal to the clan's fortunes and one of his brothers was killed in an accident involving explosives, Nobel went to the United States.
5. He worked long and hard to produce an explosive (dynamite) that would not accidentally explode, causing tragedies like the one that had killed his youngest brother.
6. Throughout his life, Nobel wanted to encourage positive instead of destructive forces.

7. He gave generously to many worthwhile causes and helped finance young people's educations.
8. After his death, Nobel's fortune was used to establish a series of annual Nobel Prizes awarded by a committee in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace.