

Yuri Gagarin

1934–1968

the first man who went into space

I was a famous Soviet cosmonaut and pioneer of space travel. I was the first man to journey into space, and to complete an orbit of the Earth. I became an international hero. Some people called me ‘the Columbus of space.’



Leonardo da Vinci

1452–1519

the man who painted the *Mona Lisa*

I had many careers during my life. I was a painter, an architect, an engineer and a scientist. But I was also a dreamer who dreamed of the future. Some of the things I dreamed about only happened many years after my death.



Amelia Earhart

1897–1937

the woman who flew alone across the Atlantic

I was the first woman to fly alone across the Atlantic Ocean. After that, I broke many flying records. But flying was always a dangerous job. A crash in 1937 ended my career and my life at the age of 39.



Victor Hugo

1802–1885

a great writer who cared about poor people

I was one of the best-known French writers. I wrote novels, poems and plays. I wrote about political and social issues because I wanted to help poor people. After living in exile for many years, I became a national hero.



Michael Faraday

1791–1867

the man who invented the electric motor

I learned only basic reading, writing and arithmetic. But I changed the future of the world by discovering that electricity could be made by using magnets.



Queen Victoria

1819–1901

the Queen who gave her name to the Victorian Age

I was one of the most famous queens in the world and I gave my name to the Victorian Age. But when I became Queen of England, I didn't want to be Queen. I was very young.



Aristotle

384–322 BCE

the first man to organize scientific knowledge

If you ask people to mention the names of three great philosophers, my name will come up along with those of Socrates and Plato. People also remember me because Alexander the Great was my most famous student.



Marie Curie

1867–1934

the first person to be awarded two Nobel Prizes

As a scientist, I don't think I could have had a more rewarding life. As a female scientist, my professional achievements were unbelievable. I was the first woman to become a professor at the Sorbonne and the first woman to receive a Nobel Prize.



I was born on 9th March 1934 in Klushino, a small village 160 kilometres west of Moscow in the Soviet Union (the USSR) in the part now known as Russia. My village was near the town of Gzhatsk. I was the third of four children, and my parents worked on a collective farm, which was a group of farms managed by workers under the control of the

I left Milan and I went to live in Venice. I was too old for fighting, but I could design buildings and machines for defence against enemies. The people of Venice soon asked me to design defences for their beautiful city. So I became a military architect and engineer for a year. But after I finished that work, I didn't want to stay in Venice. I decided to move back to my home city, Florence.

government. When I was five years old, the Second World War began. During the war, German soldiers came and attacked our area, and forced my family to leave their home. In 1943, my older brother and sister were sent away from the Soviet Union, but I was only seven, so I was allowed to stay with my parents.

I enjoyed being in Florence again. I lived in a monastery, so I was able to paint in the monks' workshop. I used it as my studio. And there were so many beautiful buildings in the city! I loved walking through the streets and looking at the details of the architecture. But I also enjoyed looking at the natural world. I looked especially at the birds. They sang happily and flew happily through the air. 'If *they* can fly, why can't I do that?' I asked myself. 'Why can't men and women fly too?'

After the war, our family moved to Gzhatsk, where I received a basic education, paid for by the government. At school, I especially enjoyed mathematics and physics, and became very good at these subjects. In addition, one of my teachers, who had been a pilot in the war, inspired me to become interested in astronomy. I didn't know that this subject would be very useful in my future career! After I left school, I became an apprentice in a factory, working with metal. As part of my training, I attended the technical college in the city of Saratov, on the River Volga. I was very keen to become a pilot, so I joined a flying club, and learned to fly light planes.

That question stayed in my mind, and I made some quick drawings – some sketches. I wanted to invent a that had moving wings. They *were* only sketches. 'But one day,' I told myself, 'people *will* be able to fly.'

I dreamed of flying, but all around me people were talking about war. In 1502, Cesare Borgia, the city's new leader, asked me to work for him. I designed weapons for him, and military buildings. In those days, I had to spend a lot of time travelling. There were long journeys on bad roads. These journeys were very tiring. Between my travels I tried to paint, but it was difficult to finish many pictures. In 1506, I decided to return again to Milan.

From the beginning, I was interested in magnetism – the force that makes two objects pull towards or away from each other. In 1894, I was offered a job studying the energy in iron ore to see what magnetic powers it had, and needed a laboratory to work in. A friend introduced me to a quiet, rather shy man, another scientist, who had the kind of space I needed. He encouraged me and soon we felt a special connection of our own, for magnetism also applies to people. This kind man was, of course, Pierre Curie,

who was to become my husband. At the time, he was an instructor at the School of Physics and Chemistry, and in 1900 became Professor of General Physics at the Sorbonne. My task was to try to isolate radioactive material in the iron ore. This involved melting iron in a huge container. It was hard work and the conditions were less than perfect as I was either outside or in a rough kind of shed. I didn't know it at the time, but this was fortunate as the melting iron gave off a poisonous gas that probably would have done me a lot of harm if I had been indoors. Much later, in the 1930s, it was also discovered that people exposed to radiation were at risk of developing anaemia – a disease of the blood – and bone cancer.

Pierre and I would spend endless hours discussing our research and our friendship became more and more serious as time passed. We decided to get engaged and then we got married in 1895. I felt incredibly lucky. Not only had I found a good man to share my home life with but I also had someone who shared my love of science. I was no longer alone. Two years later, I got my Doctorate in Physics – I was the first woman in France to do this – and then a second special event happened when our daughter Irène was born in the same year.

1. ARCHITECTS & ARTISTS
2. AVIATORS
3. COMPOSERS
4. ENTREPRENEURS & BUSINESS PEOPLE
5. EXPLORERS
6. INVENTORS
7. LEADERS
8. MATHEMATICIANS
9. MEDICAL PEOPLE
10. PERFORMERS
11. PHILANTHROPISTS
12. SCIENTISTS
13. THINKERS & HUMANITARIANS
14. WOMEN
15. WRITERS

Alessandro Volta
Michael Faraday
Marie Curie
Albert Einstein
Alexander Fleming
Linus Pauling

Alfred Nobel
Andrew Carnegie
John Rockefeller
Thomas Barnardo
Henry Wellcome
Madam CJ Walker

William the Conqueror
Saladin
Genghis Khan
Catherine the Great
Abraham Lincoln
Queen Victoria

Confucius
Socrates
Aristotle
William Wilberforce
Karl Marx
Mahatma Gandhi

Joseph Montgolfier
Louis Blériot
Charles Lindbergh
Amelia Earhart
Amy Johnson

Edward Jenner
Florence Nightingale
Elizabeth Garrett
Carl Jung
Jonas Salk
Christiaan Barnard

Harriet Tubman
Emmeline Pankhurst
Maria Montessori
Hellen Keller
Nancy Wake
Eva Peron

Mayer Rothschild
Cornelius Vanderbilt
Will Kellogg
Elizabeth Arden
Walt Disney
Soichiro Honda

JS Bach
Wolfgang Mozart
Giuseppe Verdi
Johann Strauss
Pyotr Tchaikovsky
Irving Berlin

Johannes Gutenberg
Louis Braille
Alexander Graham Bell
Thomas Edison
Guglielmo Marconi
John Logie Baird

Leonardo da Vinci
Christopher Wren
Antoni Gaudí
Pablo Picasso
Frida Kahlo

Marco Polo
Ibn Battuta
Christopher Columbus
James Cook
David Livingstone
Yuri Gagarin

Geoffrey Chaucer
William Shakespeare
Charles Dickens
Victor Hugo
Leo Tolstoy
Rudyard Kipling

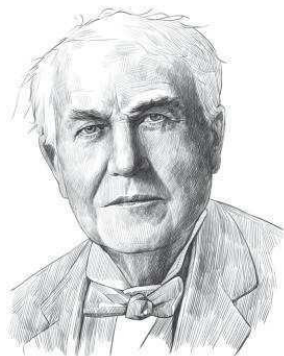
Glenn Miller
Perez Prado
Ella Fitzgerald
Luciano Pavarotti
John Lennon

Galileo Galilei
René Descartes
Isaac Newton
Carl Gauss
Charles Babbage
Ada Lovelace

Thomas Edison

◆◆◆
1847–1931

the man who invented the electric light bulb



One day, I was poor. The next, I was rich. I brought light to cities and invented lots of new things. How did I do it? I worked hard. But I also had good luck. I met the right people at the right time.

◆◆◆

I was born in the United States. I went to school for only three months because my teacher thought that I caused trouble in the classroom. In fact, I spoke in a loud voice because I couldn't hear very well. When I left school, I was only 7 years old. My mother became my teacher at home.

My parents had seven children and I was the youngest. We didn't have much money, so when I was 12 years old, all my brothers and sisters worked. I decided to work too. I got a job on the railways and I sold food and drinks on trains.

One day, I was at Mount Clemens station when I saw a little boy on the railway. There was a train coming and I ran to save him. The boy was the stationmaster's 3-year-old son. He wanted to thank me for saving his son and taught me how to use the telegraph. I could get a better job now!

◆◆◆

From 1863 to 1867, I worked as a telegraph operator. I liked machines and I sometimes did experiments. When I was 19, I had a job at The Western Union Company in Louisville. One day, I was trying an experiment when I spilt acid in the office and lost my job. I moved to Boston and invented a machine to record votes. No one was interested in it, so when I was 22 years old, I decided to go to New York to make a new start.

I knew one person in New York so I went to see him. 'I haven't got a job and I need some money. Could I borrow some from you?' I asked. He was surprised. 'I can only lend you a dollar,' he said. I took the dollar and promised to give it back. This dollar changed my life.

I was hungry and weak, so I used the dollar to buy a meal. I felt much stronger after my meal and I went out to look for a job. I talked to a few people. One of them was Franklin Pope. He worked for The Gold Indicator Company and he

showed me the company's building. I stayed in the battery room that night. The next day, I studied the company's machines. The third day was my lucky day.

There was a machine that sent important information to the Gold Exchange. Suddenly, it stopped working. The people in the company didn't know what to do. But I knew what to do. I repaired the machine. Doctor Samuel Laws, from the Gold Exchange, heard of my work. He offered to pay me \$300 a month to repair their machines! I was able to pay the dollar back.

Soon the president of the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company also heard of my work. 'Can you repair the machines in our company?' he asked me. \$3,000 or \$5,000 a year was good pay for the job, but he offered me \$40,000! I was lucky once again.

◆◆◆

This was the start of my career as a businessman and inventor. I moved to New Jersey and I opened several telegraph companies with Franklin Pope. In 1870, Mary Stilwell got a job in one of my companies. We got married the next year and had three children. I was happy to have a family but I didn't have much time to be at home. I had a lot of ideas for new inventions. In 1876, I built a research laboratory at Menlo Park, formed a team and invented the phonograph – a machine to play music – and many other things.



Thomas Edison's research laboratory

My most important invention came next. Every day when the sun set, everything was dark. We had electricity but we had no electric light. After a lot of experiments and hours of hard work at the laboratory, we invented the electric light bulb – the round, glass object that produces light. In 1882, I helped to put 400 lights in the streets of Manhattan. New York got a new name, 'The City That Never Sleeps'. I brought light to homes, hospitals, offices, factories and schools. It was the beginning of the 24-7 lifestyle – 24 hours of light, seven days a week.

Then, a sad day arrived in my life. In 1884, my wife became ill and died. But two years later, I got married to Mina Miller and had three children. At work, it was a time of success. I started more companies and invented more things. I got one patent every ten days. There were 1,093 in total!

Then hard times came again. In 1913, a big fire destroyed 13 of our buildings. The next year, the First World War started in Europe. The government asked me to work on inventions to find guns and submarines. I couldn't work on my inventions anymore.

During my life, I started a lot of companies and invented many things. One day, I was asked, 'How did you do it?' My answer was, 'One per cent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration'. Hard work was the key.