

NIKOLA TESLA

Nikola Tesla is often considered a real-life mad scientist! He did many experiments with electricity and made several groundbreaking discoveries about how it works and how it can be used.

Born in what is now Croatia in the mid-1800s, Tesla was always a curious and intelligent person. He attended university where he studied math and science. While in school, he came up with the idea for a new kind of motor and was hired by electric companies across Europe to improve their machines. It was there that he began forming the idea for the alternating current – AC. At age 28, he moved to New York City and was hired by Thomas Edison. However, Tesla and Edison had different ideas about how electricity should be used and ended up becoming rivals in the “War of Currents,” a debate over which type of electricity should be used. Tesla was in favor of AC, but Edison thought DC was better. In the end, Tesla’s AC triumphed – AC is now the standard form of electricity delivered to homes and businesses.

Tesla is remembered for conducting experiments on a grand scale and for his eccentric ideas, which, though considered outlandish at the time, lead to important discoveries. Tesla’s legacy is everywhere: not only are all modern homes run on AC, but he paved the way for scientific research in hydroelectric power, radio, robotics and wireless communication.

Name three places you might see electricity, wireless communication, or robotics today.

**By the end of his life, Tesla held over 100 patents!
In the space below, design an invention that uses AC.**

