

# Alessandro Volta

Alessandro Volta was born in Como, Lombardy, Italy, on February 18, 1745 and died in 1827. He was known for his most famous invention the battery. He was a physicist, chemist and a pioneer of electrical science.

He came from a noble family. Until the age of four, Alessandro showed no signs of talking, and his family feared he was not very intelligent. Fortunately, they were wrong as he grew to be very intelligent.



Although as a child he was slow to start speaking, he left school being fluent in Latin, French, English, and German. His language talents helped him in later life when he travelled and discussed science with others around the world.

In 1775 he devised the electrophorus - a device that produced a static electric charge. He studied gas chemistry and discovered methane. He created experiments such as the ignition of gases by an electric spark.



In 1800 he developed the voltaic pile, which was the forerunner of the electric battery which produced a steady electric current.

He didn't intend to invent the battery, but to instead perform science experiments to prove another Italian scientist, Luigi Galvani, was incorrect in his scientific ideas. Alessandro set out to prove Galvani's idea that animal electricity was the same as static electricity was an incorrect theory.

In 1792 Volta performed experiments on dead and disembodied frogs legs. He found out that the key to getting them to move is by contacting two different types of metals; if you use the same type of metal the electricity did not pass through the frog.

In 1794 Volta carried out extensive experiments to measure electrical effects of different pairs of metals. Volta named these metals in the order of their conductivity 'electromotive force'.

