Name _____

Nikola Tesla: The Man Who Electrified the World



Nikola Tesla was an inventor, engineer, and scientist who helped shape the modern world. His discoveries in electricity, radio waves, and wireless technology changed the way people live. Even though he faced many challenges, his inventions are still used today.

Early Life and Curiosity

Nikola Tesla was born on July 10, 1856, in Smiljan, Croatia (then part of the Austrian Empire). As a child, Tesla was curious and imaginative. He loved to read books and build things. One day, he watched a water wheel spin and imagined a machine that could create energy without fuel.

Tesla was an excellent student. He had a strong memory and could solve math problems quickly. He later studied engineering in college. However, he left school before finishing his degree because he wanted to start inventing right away.

The Battle of Electricity

In the late 1800s, people were trying to find the best way to bring electricity to homes and businesses. Thomas Edison promoted direct current (DC), but Tesla believed alternating current (AC) was better because it could travel long distances.

Tesla partnered with George Westinghouse, a businessman who supported AC electricity. Together, they won the famous "War of the Currents" against Edison. In 1893, Tesla's AC system was used to light up the Chicago World's Fair, proving that it was the future of electricity.

Later, Tesla's AC power system was used in the first hydroelectric plant at Niagara Falls, bringing electricity to many homes. Today, AC power is used all over the world!

Amazing Inventions

Tesla was full of brilliant ideas. He invented:

- **The Tesla Coil** – used in early radios and televisions.
- **Wireless Power** – he dreamed of sending electricity through the air without wires.
- **Radio Waves** – his experiments led to the creation of radios.
- **Robots and Remote Control** – he built the first radio-controlled boat.

Tesla also predicted the future. He imagined smartphones, the internet, and even wireless energy long before they existed!

Challenges and Later Life

Even though Tesla was a genius, he had many struggles. He did not care much about money, and he often gave away his ideas instead of making profits. Many of his projects ran out of funding. He was also competing with other inventors who took credit for some of his discoveries. As he grew older, Tesla lived alone in a hotel in New York City. Even though he didn't become rich, he was happy working on new ideas until his death on January 7, 1943. Today, people recognize Tesla as one of the greatest inventors of all time. His name is even used for Tesla electric cars, honoring his work in electricity. His story teaches us that curiosity, hard work, and imagination can change the world!

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