

# MICHAEL FARADAY

## Standing Room Only Science

**Michael Faraday** was an English physicist and chemist who studied electricity. He learned a lot about how electrical currents and studied electromagnetism. He was one of the first scientists to find out that electricity could be generated by moving a magnet inside a wire coil.

Faraday was born in London in 1791. Though his family did not have much money and was not able to afford a full education for him, he was a curious child. He grew up working as an apprentice to a bookbinder and while working there read books on a variety of subjects. In 1812, he attended lectures by famous chemist Humphrey Davy and became interested in his job. He later wrote Davy a letter asking him for a job as his assistant, and Davy turned him down at the time, but a year later one of the assistants was fired, and Davy remembered Faraday's enthusiasm for the job. He appointed him as chemical assistant to the Royal Institution, an organization devoted to scientific study. As an assistant, he started out working with chemicals in Davy's lab but soon became a popular and entertaining speaker. He achieved celebrity status in London and England for his groundbreaking discoveries and his public persona. Faraday gave lectures about the latest scientific discoveries every year on Christmas, open to children who were interested in science. The Royal Institution still holds Christmas Day lectures today.



Over his lifetime, Faraday built the first electric motor, and later the generator and transformer. He was also the first to use many words we use to describe electrical science. Without him, we would not be able to power our cars, clocks, airplanes, and many other important things!

