Michael Faraday Fact Cards

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Michael Faraday was born on 22nd September 1791 in London.

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Michael's family were very poor. He attended a charity school and only received a basic education. When he was 14 years old, he became an apprentice to a bookbinder. He educated himself by reading as many scientific books as possible.





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Michael became interested in electromagnetism, an area of science studying electricity and magnetism. In 1821, he published some scientific discoveries he had made about electromagnetic rotation.

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In 1826, Michael started the Royal Institution's Friday Evening Discourses, where scientists give lectures about their discoveries. He also started the Royal Institution's Christmas Lectures in the same year. These lectures are still held today.

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Michael discovered that by making a wire into a coil and placing a strong magnet inside it gained a magnetic force. He also found out that if the magnet was moved in and out of the coil an electrical current was produced. This is called electromagnetic induction. This work led to the first generators and electric motors.



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Michael discovered that pumps could change a gas into a liquid. The liquid would then evaporate back into a gas which would cause a drop in temperature. The process would then be constantly repeated. This led to the invention of the fridge.

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A Faraday cage is a piece of equipment that acts as a shield against electrical current, based on Faraday's work. Faraday cages are still used by people working with electricity today.



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Michael married Sarah Barnard in 1821. They lived together in the rooms of the Royal Institution. They had no children of their own but had more than eighty nephews and nieces.

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Michael Faraday died on the 25th August 1867 at the age of 75. He was buried in Highgate Cemetery, London. Michael Faraday Fact Cards



Albert Einstein, one of the world's greatest scientists, had a picture of Michael Faraday in his study.