Q ♣

Willebrord Snell
(1591 - 1626)
His discovery of the Law of Refraction has allowed a better understanding of the interactions of light with materials.

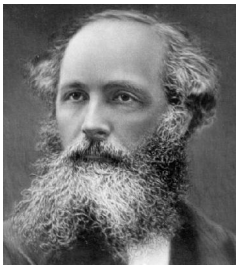
K ♣

Stephen Hawking
(1942 -)
Wheelchair bound, and unable to speak without a computer since the 1980's, he remains one of the greatest theoretical physicists of all time.

A ♣

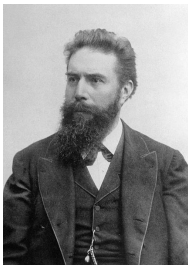
Sir Isaac Newton
(1642 - 1727)
Famous for the Three Laws of Motion, Universal Gravitation, optics, and calculus, it is difficult to overstate the impact he had on physics. And no, an apple never fell on his head.

K ♠



James Clerk Maxwell
(1831 - 1879)
His work on electromagnetic radiation (EMR) gave us a new understanding of light. His death at the young age of 48 raises the question of what else he might have done. Einstein had a picture of Maxwell hanging in his study.

3 ♠

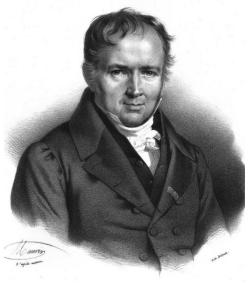


Wilhelm Röntgen
(1845 - 1923)
He discovered x-rays ability to pass through soft tissue when he took a picture of his wife's hand. He was the first person to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics, in 1901.

2 ♠

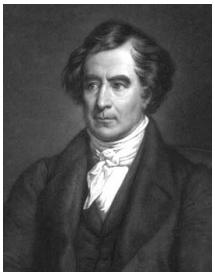
Francesco Grimaldi
(1618 - 1663)
The first person to make detailed measurements of the diffraction of light. His observations were used by Huygen's in support of his wave model of light.

4 ♠



Siméon Poisson
(1781 - 1840)
He believed in the particle model of light so much that while pointing out errors in another scientist's wave theories, he predicted the existence of a bright spot in the centre of a shadow, but then never did the experiment.

5 ♠



François Jean Dominique Arago
(1786 - 1853)
A supporter of the wave theory of light, he performed the experiment Poisson had suggested and observed “Poisson's Spot.” He also created the first polarization filter.

6 ♠

Prince Louis Victor de Broglie
(1892 - 1987)
Born in Dieppe, Seine-Marne, he broke with family tradition and became a physicist. He was the first to use Einstein's work to suggest that particles could sometimes have wave properties.