

A CENTURY of INVENTION

This timeline shows some incredible inventions and achievements by creative geniuses from the UK and Commonwealth countries during The Queen's lifetime.



TELEVISION

1926

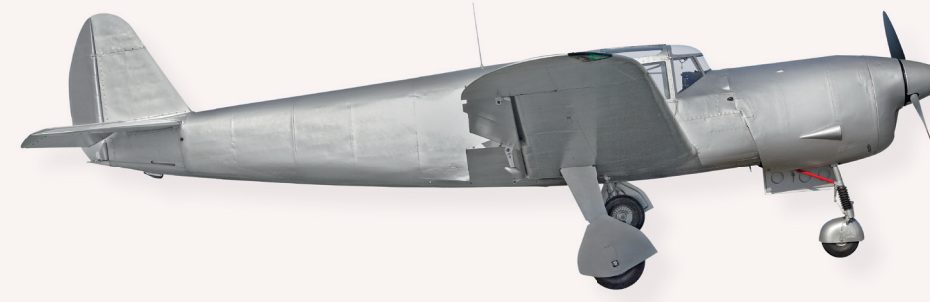
Scottish inventor John Logie Baird demonstrated moving television images, which evolved into the home entertainment systems we see today.



PENICILLIN

1928

Scottish scientist Alexander Fleming noticed that mould was destroying bacteria in his laboratory, and used this to create the first antibiotic. Since the 1940s, penicillin has saved the lives of millions.



JET ENGINE

1930

English engineer Sir Frank Whittle patented his design for a jet engine. The first successful flight of a British jet aircraft took off in 1941.



ZEBRA CROSSING

1951

The first zebra crossing was installed in Slough, England. Vehicles had to stop at these black-and-white striped road markings, so pedestrians could cross the road safely.



DNA

1953

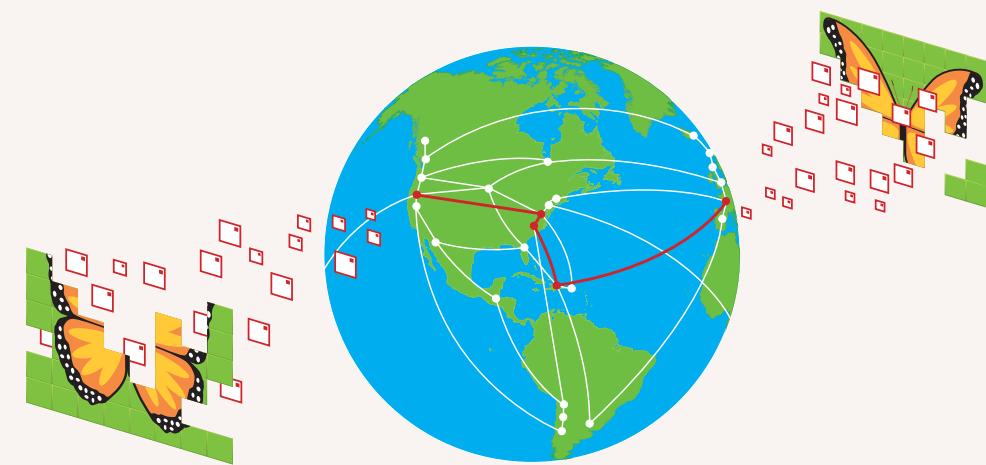
English biologist Francis Crick and US scientist James Watson used the work of English chemist Rosalind Franklin as the basis for their structure of DNA – the genetic code for all living things – and won the Nobel Prize for their efforts.



HOVERCRAFT

1955

English engineer Christopher Sydney Cockerell invented the hovercraft, a high-speed water vehicle that hovers over the sea on a cushion of air, like a giant inflatable tyre.



WORLD WIDE WEB

1989

Jamaican researchers Professor Manley West and Dr Albert Loockhart developed Canasol, a treatment for glaucoma, a serious eye condition, saving the sight of people all over the world.



SIGHT-SAVING MEDICINE

1987

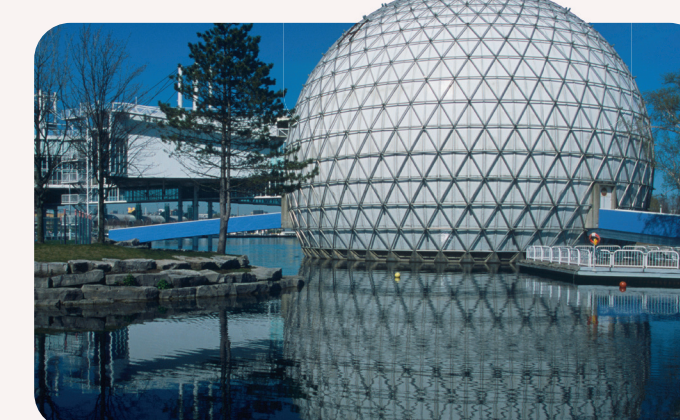
Australian professor Graeme Clark invented the cochlear implant – an electronic device that is placed inside the ear, and which helps people who have hearing loss to understand sound.



BIONIC EAR

1978

Canadian filmmakers Graeme Ferguson, Roman Kroitor, Robert Kerr, and William Shaw gave moviegoers a new experience with giant, high-definition IMAX screens, six times bigger than standard screen.



SUPERSIZE SCREENS

1967

Northern Ireland cardiologist Frank Pantridge invented the portable defibrillator, an emergency device that helps failing hearts, and has since saved millions of lives.



PORTABLE DEFIBRILLATOR

1965

This classic compact car was created by English inventor Alec Issigonis. The attractive design, small size, and affordable price tag made the Mini hugely popular.



MINI

1959

English engineer Christopher Sydney Cockerell invented the hovercraft, a high-speed water vehicle that hovers over the sea on a cushion of air, like a giant inflatable tyre.



WIND-UP RADIO

1996

English inventor Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web (www) – the system of linked web pages with comprehensive content for the public to access through the internet.



ANIMAL CLONING

1996

Scientists at the Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh, created Dolly the sheep, cloned from her parent sheep as an identical copy. This made Dolly the first-ever cloned mammal.



HARRY POTTER

1997

The first book about fictitious wizard Harry Potter, entitled Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, was published. This led to seven books by English writer J. K. Rowling in the best-selling series, as well as a successful film franchise.



IPHONE

2007

English-American Jony Ive helped to revolutionise mobile phones when he designed the stylish iPhone with its touch screen, lightweight frame, and built-in mobile App Store. He also designed the iPad, iPod, and Apple Watch.



SPACE VISIT

2015

English astronaut Tim Peake became the first British astronaut to visit the International Space Station (ISS) and the first person to be awarded an honour from The Queen while in space.



SPACE TOURISM

2021

On board his Virgin Galactic rocket plane, English entrepreneur Richard Branson flew into space for an hour-long trip of a lifetime, paving the way for tourists to visit space in the future.