

Advances in Science and Technology

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c. 1450	Johannes Gutenberg refines the printing press in Europe.
1480s	Leonardo da Vinci experiments with levers, gears, and water-powered machines.
1530s	Andreas Vesalius writes about human anatomy.
1609	Galileo refines a telescope for astronomical observation.
1609	Johannes Kepler writes about the motion of the planets.
1628	William Harvey writes about circulation of the blood.
1660s	Antonie van Leeuwenhoek perfects the microscope based on the work of Robert Hooke, and discovers bacteria.
1687	Isaac Newton publishes his book about gravity and the laws of motion.
1712	Thomas Newcomen invents the steam engine.
1733	John Kay invents the flying shuttle for cloth weaving.
1764	James Hargreaves invents the spinning jenny in England.
1769	James Watt perfects the steam engine.
1787	James Fitch builds the first steamboat in America.
1793	Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin.
1802	The first successful steamship is built by William Symington in England.
1807	Robert Fulton launches the first commercial steamboat in America (the Clermont).
1829	George Stephenson invents a steam locomotive that travels on iron rails.
1847	Samuel Colt invents assembly line factory production.
1859 - 1869	The Suez Canal is built in Egypt, permitting sea travel from Europe to Asia without circumnavigating Africa.

Note: You will notice that most often a scientific or technological discovery is not the work of a single individual, but the combined effort of many people over time. What does this tell you about the importance of history, record keeping, and the exchange of ideas between societies?