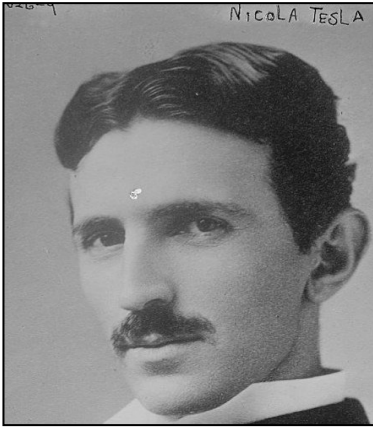




# Colorado Biographies



## Nikola Tesla

1856-1943

- Nikola Tesla was born in Smiljan, Croatia in 1856.
- In 1881 Tesla discovered the principle of electricity which involved magnetic fields, the basis of practically all electrical power.
- Tesla became an engineer in Paris around 1882.
- Nikola constructed his first induction motor in 1883.
- Tesla Came to U.S. in 1884 and became a naturalized citizen in 1891.
- Nikola worked for Thomas Edison from 1884-1885. Their personalities clashed which caused problems for many years.
- He sold patent rights to his system of alternating current machinery to George Westinghouse in 1885.
- From 1899-1900 Tesla set up an experimental station in Colorado Springs to experiment with power transmission.
- During his lifetime Tesla established his own laboratory, invented the Tesla coil, installed electric power machinery at Niagara Falls, demonstrated a wireless communication system, invented a remote-controlled robotic boat which he called the teleautomaton and registered over 700 patents.
- In 1943 Tesla died of natural causes alone in his room at the New Yorker Hotel on January 8th at the age of 86 .

### Great Resources on Nikola Tesla

Hunt, Inez and Wanetta E. Draper *Lightning in His Hand: the Life Story of Nikola Tesla*. Pikes Peak Library District with the Nikola Tesla Museum, c2010. Rev. Ed.

Aldrich, Lisa J. *Nikola Tesla and the Taming of Electricity*. Greensboro, N.C.: Morgan Reynolds Pub., c2005.

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