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JavaScript was created by Brendan Eich in just 10 days in 1995 while he was working at Netscape Communications Corporation. It was originally named Mocha, then LiveScript before settling on JavaScript.

The popular JavaScript library jQuery was created by John Resig in 2006. It aimed to simplify HTML document traversing, event handling, animating, and Ajax interactions for rapid web development.

JavaScript was initially designed to add interactivity to web pages in browsers. However, with the introduction of Node.js by Ryan Dahl in 2009, JavaScript can now be used for server-side programming as well.

Douglas Crockford, a prominent figure in the JavaScript community, is known for his work on JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) and his book "JavaScript: The Good Parts," which highlights the best practices and most useful aspects of the language.

ES6, also known as ECMAScript 2015, introduced significant enhancements to JavaScript, including arrow functions, classes, template literals, and let and const for variable declarations.