

Nikola Tesla

Nikola Tesla

Full name & life dates: Nikola Tesla (1856-1943)

Family: Serbian Orthodox background; born in modern-day Croatia.

Education: Polytechnic Institute in Graz, University of Prague.

Key Contributions: AC current system, Tesla coil, wireless power concepts.

Career: Emigrated to U.S., worked with Edison and Westinghouse.

Personal: Never married; eccentric personality; financially unstable despite fame.

Legacy: 278-300 patents; central figure in development of electrical systems.