

Isaac Newton

AD 1643 – AD 1727



Newton wrote Optics proposing that light was made of corpuscles traveling in straight lines.

Ole Roemer

AD 1644 – AD 1710



Roemer measured the speed of light using observations of Jupiter's moons.

Thomas Young

AD 1773 – AD 1829



Young's experiments with double-slit light sources showed that light waves interfered with one another, demonstrating the wave nature of at least some of light's phenomena.

Joseph von Fraunhofer

AD 1787 – AD 1826



Discovered the spectrum dark absorption lines of the sun, further evidence of light's relationship to elements.

AD 1650

AD 1675

AD 1700

AD 1725

AD 1750

AD 1775

AD 1800

AD 1825

AD 1850

AD 1875

AD 1900