



X-Ray



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X-Ray

Before the 19th century, doctors diagnosed diseases or illnesses based on their observations and patients' description. However, this method provided insufficient information in diagnosing a patient's illness or disease.

In 1895, Professor Roentgen's laboratory made a breakthrough in Munich University, Germany. He walked into his laboratory as usual and switched on the cathode ray tube. During the experiment, he noticed that certain rays were emitted from the tube that was reflected on a barium platinocyanide-covered screen placed 2 meters away. He then covered those lights using one hand and to his astonishment saw that the image projected on the screen was that of his hand's bone structure.



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After several repetitions, Roentgen concluded that the cathode ray tube was able to produce a type of light that had the ability to penetrate human tissue and project its internal bone structure onto a screen. He named it as “X-Ray” because ‘X’ represented the mathematics concept of uncertainty. “X-Ray” quickly became a worldwide sensation.

Although Roentgen’s discovery was applied in the medical field sometime around the 20th century, the X-Ray had already joined the list of medical equipment in the 19th century. During the 20th century, the X-Ray was finally given its due recognition for its contribution to the diagnosis of different illnesses and diseases.



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Food for Thought:

Sometimes, invention and innovation require a bit of luck. However, if little effort is put in, luck will most likely not be on your side. Take Roentgen's case for example. If he did not put much interest and effort into the cathode ray tube experiment, he would most likely not have discovered the X-ray.

