

Renewable Energy Milestones

Renewable Energy History · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Who is credited with inventing the first known solar cell capable of converting light into electricity with usable power, using selenium, in 1883?

- A) Charles Fritts**
- B) Augustin Mouchot
- C) William Grylls Adams
- D) Werner von Siemens

2. What was the name of the world's first utility-scale wind turbine connected to an electricity grid, built in 1941 by Palmer Cosslett Putnam?

- A) Smith-Putnam turbine**
- B) The Gedser Mill
- C) The Wondr-1
- D) The Tvindkraft

3. In 1878, the first solar-powered steam engine was demonstrated at the Paris Universal Exhibition by which inventor?

- A) John Ericsson
- B) Augustin Mouchot**
- C) Clarence Kemp
- D) Frank Shuman

4. Which company produced the first commercial silicon solar cell in 1954, achieving an efficiency of approximately 6%?

- A) General Electric
- B) Bell Labs**
- C) Westinghouse
- D) Texas Instruments

5. The first offshore wind farm, Vindeby, was commissioned in 1991. In which country was it located?

- A) Netherlands
- B) United Kingdom
- C) Denmark**
- D) Germany

6. What was the primary material used by Alexandre Edmond Becquerel in 1839 to discover the photovoltaic effect?

- A) Silicon
- B) Silver chloride**
- C) Gallium arsenide
- D) Cadmium telluride

7. In 1913, Frank Shuman built the world's first solar thermal power station. Where was this facility located?

- A) Arizona, USA
- B) Seville, Spain
- C) Maadi, Egypt**
- D) Perth, Australia

8. Which scientist is credited with building the first wind turbine for electricity generation in 1887 in Scotland?

- A) James Blyth**
- B) Charles Brush
- C) Paul La Cour
- D) Poul Juergen

9. The first geothermal power plant in the world began generating electricity in 1904. Where was this located?

- A) The Geysers, USA
- B) Larderello, Italy**
- C) Wairakei, New Zealand
- D) Krafla, Iceland

10. What was the first commercial tidal power station, opened in 1966, to utilize the estuary of the La Rance River?

- A) Sihwa Lake Tidal Power Station
- B) Rance Tidal Power Station**
- C) Annapolis Royal Generating Station
- D) Jiangxia Tidal Power Station