

Optics Firsts and Inventions

Optics · Answer Key · 7 Questions

1. Who filed the earliest known patent for an optical telescope in 1608?

- A) Galileo Galilei
- B) Hans Lippershey**
- C) Johannes Kepler
- D) Christiaan Huygens

2. Which scientist constructed the first practical reflecting telescope using a curved mirror in 1668?

- A) Sir Isaac Newton**
- B) René Descartes
- C) Robert Hooke
- D) Blaise Pascal

3. Who discovered infrared radiation in 1800 while passing sunlight through a prism and measuring the temperature beyond red light?

- A) James Clerk Maxwell
- B) William Herschel**
- C) Thomas Young
- D) Heinrich Hertz

4. Dutch spectacle makers Zacharias Janssen and his father Hans are historically credited with inventing which optical device in the 1590s?

- A) The compound microscope**
- B) The kaleidoscope
- C) The periscope
- D) The magnifying glass

5. Who built the world's first working laser in 1960 using a synthetic ruby crystal?

- A) Albert Einstein
- B) Theodore Maiman**
- C) Charles Townes
- D) Arthur Schawlow

6. Who demonstrated that white light is composed of a full spectrum of colors using glass prisms?

- A) Michael Faraday
- B) Isaac Newton**
- C) Niels Bohr
- D) Galileo Galilei

7. Which historical figure is credited with inventing bifocal eyeglasses in the late 18th century?

A) Benjamin Franklin

B) Thomas Edison

C) Alexander Graham Bell

D) Nikola Tesla