

HISTORY OF RAIL

JAMES WATT

James Watt was born in Greenock, Scotland on 18 January 1736. He became a Scottish engineer, inventor, and chemist. He was one of the most important contributors to the Industrial Revolution. He is best known for making major improvements to the steam engine. For James Watt's contribution to industry efficiency, the watt (W) was named after him.

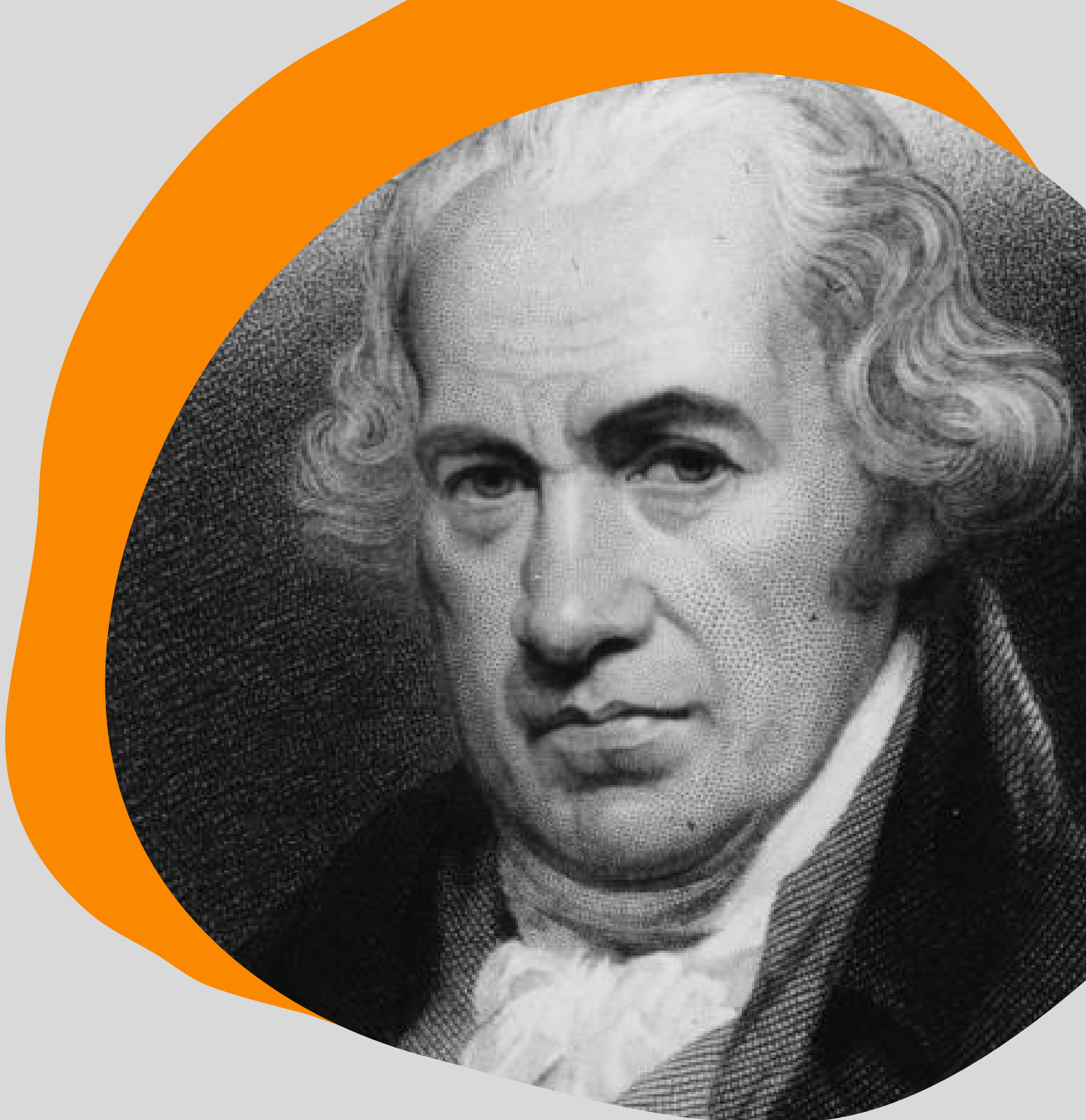




FACT SHEET

- Due to poor health, James rarely went to school. He studied a lot by himself. Initially, he studied at home, and his parents became his teachers. His mother taught reading, and his father taught him writing and math.
- Many scientists believe that the industrial revolution took place thanks to Watt's inventions. Some of the main inventions were:
 - Steam engine
 - Copy press
 - He suggested using "horsepower" as a unit of power
- In 1764, Watt was working at the Glasgow University in Scotland. The university obtained a Newcomen engine. It was the first machine to use steam to result in mechanical work.
- James Watt did not invent the steam engine, he only improved it. When he registered a patent for his invention, the document stated that he created the steam engine. In 1782, the mechanic created a dual-action machine that allowed the steam machine to increase its productivity up to four times.
- He was the first person to propose that water was made of hydrogen combined with oxygen.
- Watt appeared on a 50 pound sterling note in 2011. He is only one of two Scots to do so.





WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT ABOUT JAMES WATT...

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