

M. V. Lomonosov

(1711 - 1765)



*by Sofia
Syrtsova
School №331
Class 9-a*





M. Lomonosov



Mikhail Vasilievich was the first Russian natural scientist of world importance and “Star of world science”. He was actively engaged in physics, chemistry, astronomy, geology, meteorology, and navigation. He brought the most advanced scientific theories to Russia and advanced original ideas.





Early years



He was born in 1711 in the village of Denisovka near Arkhangelsk (later renamed Lomonosovo in his honor). His father, Vasily Dorofeyevich Lomonosov, was a prosperous peasant fisherman.

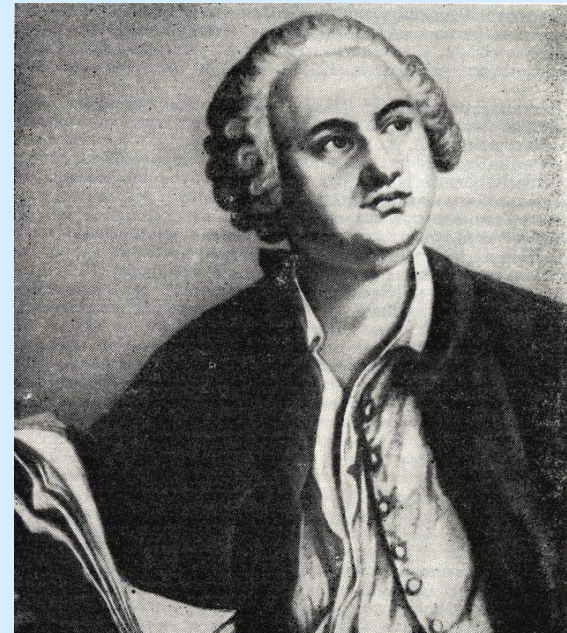




Early years



Misha often went with his father to the White Sea and to the Arctic Ocean. At an early age Lomonosov was eager to learn and read every book he could find.





Education



In 1730, at the age of 19 the young man left his home and went on foot to Moscow where he managed to enter the Slavonic-Greek-Latin Academy by falsely claiming to be a priest's son.





Education



His first years of study were difficult. He lived on three kopecks a day, living off only black bread and kvas, but Mikhail worked hard and made great progress. He completed a twelve-year study course in only five years, graduating at the top of his class.





Education



In 1736, Lomonosov was awarded a scholarship to Saint-Petersburg State University. He was rewarded with a two-year grant to study abroad at the University of Marburg, in Germany where he quickly mastered the German language, and in addition to philosophy, seriously studied chemistry.





Return to St-Petersburg



In 1745 Lomonosov was made a full member of the Russian Academy of Science, and named professor of chemistry. In 1748 he established the first chemistry laboratory. He was eager to improve Russia's educational system, and on his initiative in 1755 the Moscow University was founded.

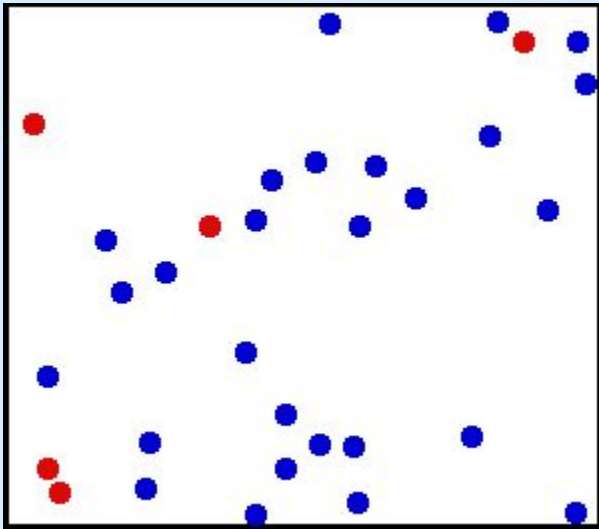




A physicist



He formulated the main principles of one of the basic laws of physics — the law of conservation of matter and motion. He also suggested the wave theory of light, contributed to the formulation of the kinetic theory of gases.

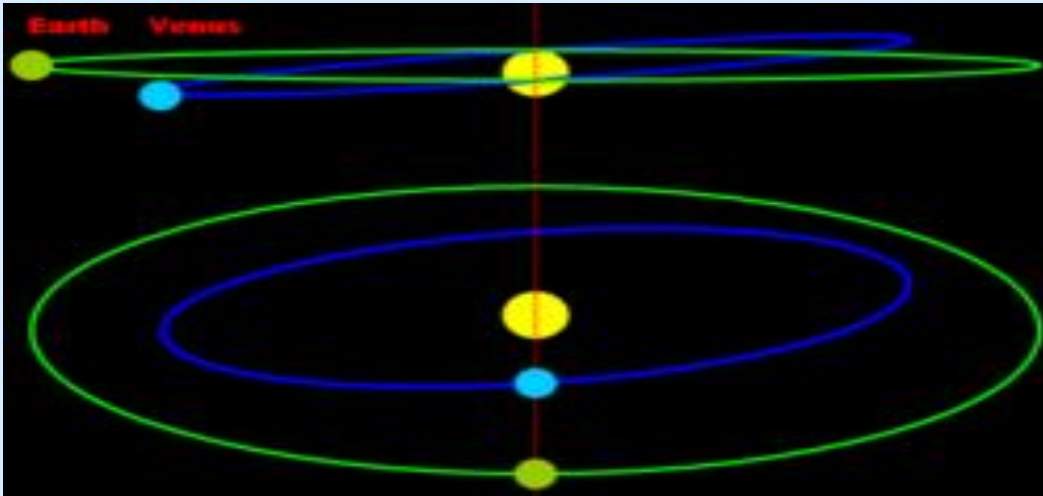




An astronomer



He invented the reflecting telescope. However, this invention was not published until 1827. Lomonosov was the first person to hypothesize the existence of an atmosphere on Venus based on his observation of the transit of Venus of 1761 in the small observatory near his house in Petersburg.

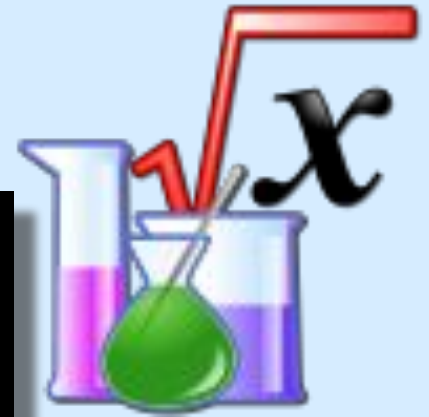




A chemist



Lomonosov was the first person to record the freezing of mercury. Believing that nature is subject to regular and continuous evolution, he demonstrated the organic origin of soil, peat, coal, petroleum and amber.

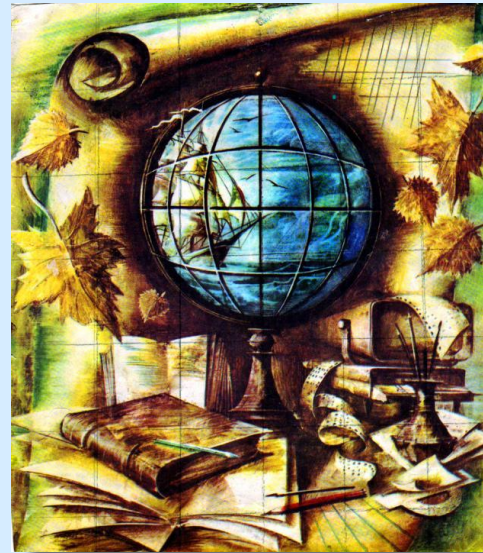




A geographer



He tried to find a short sea route from the West to the East across the Arctic Ocean. He theoretically predicted the existence of Antarctica, got close to the theory of continental drift and invented sea tools which made writing and calculating directions and distances easier.





An artist



Lomonosov was proud to restore the ancient art of mosaics. In 1763, he set up a glass factory that produced the first stained glass mosaics outside of Italy. He was a talented artist. Among the best mosaic pictures is the portrait of Peter the Great and the Battle of Poltava.

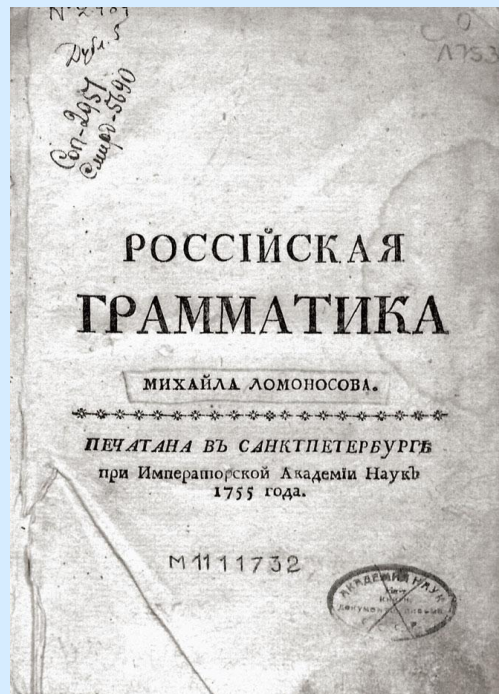




A poet



Besides, M. Lomonosov wrote poetry (odes and verses). The first Russian grammar was written by him as well. He published the History of Russia in 1760.





Last years



At the end of his life in 1764 Lomonosov was elected honorary member of the Stockholm and Bologna Academies.





Last years



Lomonosov died in 1765 when he was only 54. He was buried in the cemetery of Alexander Nevsky Lavra in St-Petersburg.

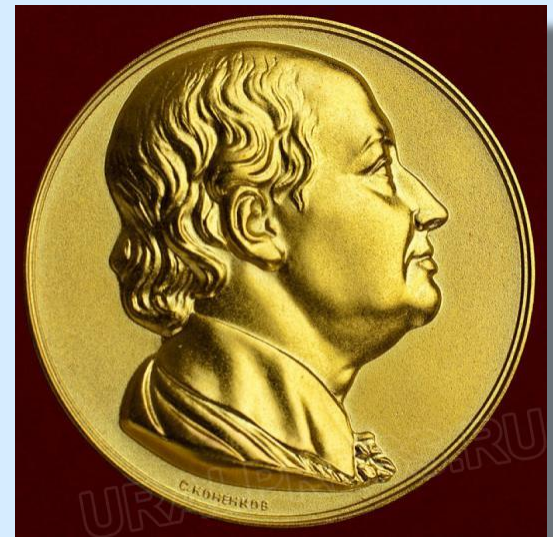




Named after him



Moscow State University was renamed "M. V. Lomonosov Moscow State University" in his honor in 1940. The Lomonosov Gold Medal was established in 1959 and it is awarded annually by the Russian Academy of Sciences to Russian and foreign scientists.





“The great son of Russia”



M. Lomonosov is recognized as one of the outstanding scientists in the world who made significant contributions to literature, education, and science. He is known as “The father of Russian Science” and “The great son of Russia”.



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