

# A Short History of Photovoltaic (PV) Cells

## Student Inquiry

### Inquiry 1

Before you try to answer Inquiry 1, have a go at answering supporting questions 1A, 1B, and 1C on the next page.

You can research information on these questions by going to the websites listed at the bottom of the page.

**What are some of the significant factors that have influenced people's decisions to accept or reject PV technology as a way to generate electricity?**

Schoolgen – Student Fact Sheet *A Short History of Photovoltaic (PV) Cells*

[http://www.schoolgen.co.nz/se/pv\\_history.aspx](http://www.schoolgen.co.nz/se/pv_history.aspx)

World of Energy – History of Solar Power

[http://www.worldofenergy.com.au/factsheet\\_solar/07\\_fact\\_solar\\_history.html](http://www.worldofenergy.com.au/factsheet_solar/07_fact_solar_history.html)

About.Com – History: Photovoltaics Timeline

<http://inventors.about.com/od/timelines/a/Photovoltaics.htm>

Energy Quest – Energy Story

<http://www.energyquest.ca.gov/story/chapter15.html>

### Supporting question 1A

**What changes in technology have helped PV technology become more widely used as a way to generate electricity?**

### Supporting question 1B

**What economic changes have influenced people's attitudes towards PV technology as an effective way to generate electricity?**

### Supporting question 1C

**What environmental, social or political changes have influenced people's responses to PV technology as a way of generating electricity?**

## ○ Inquiry 2

Before you try to answer Inquiry 2, have a go at answering supporting questions 2A, 2B, and 2C on the next page.

You can research information on these questions by going to the websites listed at the bottom of the page.

**What were some of the challenges faced by scientists wanting to develop PV technology as an efficient way to generate electricity?**

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[http://www.schoolgen.co.nz/se/pv\\_history.aspx](http://www.schoolgen.co.nz/se/pv_history.aspx)

World of Energy – The facts about Solar Energy

[http://www.worldofenergy.com.au/factsheet\\_solar/07\\_fact\\_solar\\_history.html](http://www.worldofenergy.com.au/factsheet_solar/07_fact_solar_history.html)

About.Com – History: Photovoltaics Timeline

<http://inventors.about.com/od/timelines/a/Photovoltaics.htm>

### Supporting question 2A

**How did people's attitudes, opinions and values affect scientists' research into PV technology and their efforts to improve PV technology's effectiveness in generating electricity?**

### Supporting question 2B

**What were some of the technological problems that scientists have had to overcome to make PV technology an efficient and effective way to generate electricity?**

### Supporting question 2C

**What world events presented scientists with additional challenges that they needed to overcome to improve PV technology?**