



The eighth scientific wonder of the world? Is there an invention that has changed your life, or a scientific advance you think has **transformed the world for good or bad?** What would you choose to be an eighth wonder of the scientific world? Do we have an example of your idea here in the **Science Museum?**

5. Biggest calculator

Difference Engine No. 2
Computing, second floor

Inventor Charles Babbage drew detailed designs for this huge machine over 150 years ago. It's an **enormous calculator that also prints out its results** and Babbage called it a 'difference engine'.

Babbage made only a small part of his incredible calculator in his lifetime, and you can see it in the *Making the Modern World* gallery on the ground floor. But in the 1990s, a team here at the **Science Museum** built Difference Engine No. 2 to Babbage's original design, and **proved that it would have worked** just like Babbage said it would.

DID YOU KNOW?

You have to turn the handle four times for each calculation using the Difference Engine, so one result takes about six seconds.

6. Moving model

Orrery
Science in the 18th Century, third floor

From twinkling stars to mysterious comets, people have gazed at the skies for centuries and tried to explain what they saw. Beautiful mechanical models like this orrery were made to **demonstrate how heavenly bodies are related to each other.**

The fourth Earl of Orrery in Ireland commissioned this mechanical model of the Sun, Earth and Moon in 1712, and similar machines soon became known by his name. The heavenly bodies **moved correctly in their orbits** when the handle turned – although not on a realistic scale of size or distance.

DID YOU KNOW?

Many orreries show Saturn and Uranus, but very few reach as far as Pluto because it wasn't discovered until 1930.

7. Fastest airliner

Concorde engine
Flight, third floor

Concorde was the first commercial aircraft to fly **faster than sound**, whisking passengers from London to New York in about three hours. Each Concorde had four Rolls Royce/Snecma Olympus 593 turbojet engines like this one, which used afterburners to boost the plane to supersonic speeds.

Many people loved Concorde's delta-wing design and glamorous image. But it had often been deemed **too expensive to run** and not long after a devastating crash in 2000 the Concorde era came to an end. Will new technology ever give us the chance of supersonic flight again?

DID YOU KNOW?

Cruising twice as high as an ordinary airliner, Concorde gave passengers a clear view of the curvature of the Earth.



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