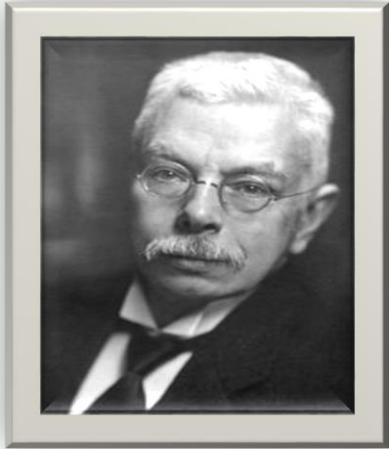


Pieter Zeeman

(25 May 1865 – 9 October 1943)



Pieter Zeeman was born in Zonnemaire, Netherlands. He became interested in physics at an early age. While his school days, once the *aurora borealis* happened to be visible in the Netherlands sky. He made a drawing and description of the phenomenon and submitted it to the famous science magazine *Nature*, where it was published.

He studied physics at the University of Leiden under Kamerlingh Onnes and Hendrik Lorentz. Six years later, at the suggestion of Lorentz, he investigated the effect of magnetic fields on a source of light and found that each of the spectral line in the emitted light split into several lines; the *Zeeman effect*. Because of his discovery, Zeeman was offered a position as lecturer in Amsterdam in 1897. Zeeman was appointed professor of physics at the University of Amsterdam in 1900 and director of its Physical Institute in 1908. The Zeeman Effect thus became an important tool for elucidating the structure of the atom. Remaining there until his death, he conducted research on the propagation of light in moving media such as water, quartz, and flint.



(Einstein visiting Pieter Zeeman in Amsterdam with his friend Ehrenfest in 1920)

Pieter Zeeman shared the Nobel Prize in physics with Hendrik Lorentz in the year 1902 for his discovery of the Zeeman Effect.

Teachers may suggest students to make a collage of photographs of scientists in physics depicting the advancements in the subject.