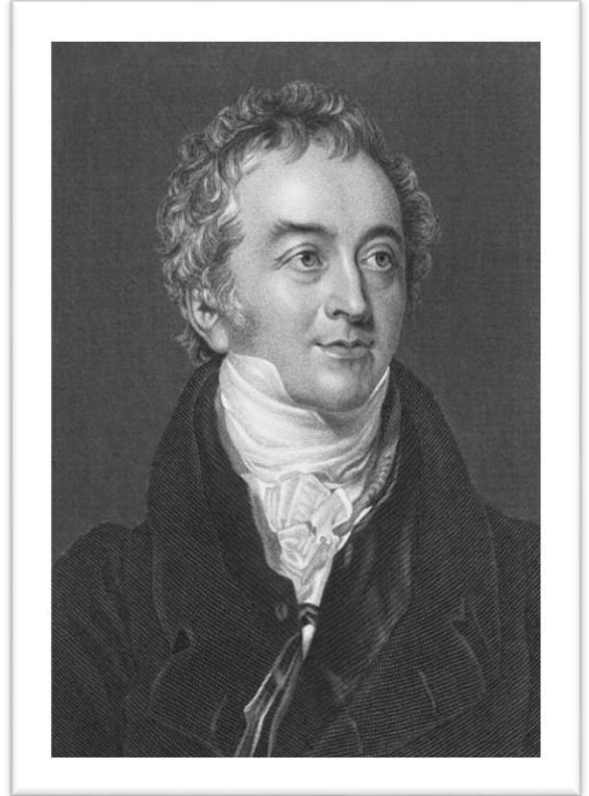


# Thomas Young

(13 June 1773 – 10 May 1829)

Thomas Young was an English scientist, physician, Egyptologist, researcher, and polymath. Young belonged to a Quaker family of Milverton, Somerset, where he was born in 1773 and youngest of ten siblings. At the age of fourteen Young had learned Greek, Latin, French, Italian, Hebrew, Chaldean, Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Amharic. Young began to study medicine in London in 1792, moved to Edinburgh in 1794, and a year later went to Göttingen, where he obtained the degree of doctor of physics in 1796. He started working in Emmanuel College, Cambridge in 1797. He established himself as a physicist in Welbeck Street at London in 1797. His lectures were published in 1807 in the *Course of Lectures on Natural Philosophy*. Young compared the grammar and vocabulary of 400 languages in his article "Languages", published in *Encyclopedia Britannica*.



In 1801, Young was appointed professor of "natural philosophy" (mainly physics) at the Royal Institution and in 1802, he was appointed foreign secretary of the Royal Society. Young worked on a wide variety of scientific problems, ranging from the structure of the eye and the mechanism of vision to the decipherment of the Rosetta stone. He revived the wave theory of light and recognized that interference phenomena provide verification of the wave properties of light. Young also described about elastic properties of matter that came to be known as Young's modulus relating the stress and strain of an object.

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