**KEY EVENTS**


1838 Immanuel Nobel moves to St Petersburg, Russia, where he starts a new business; he leaves his family behind in Sweden.

1842 The Nobel family is reunited in St Petersburg, Russia.

1850 – 1852 At the age of 17, Alfred Nobel speaks five languages fluently. He travels to Paris and works for one year in the laboratory of T. Jules Pelouze. He also travels to Italy, Germany and the United States.

1853 – 1856 Immanuel Nobel’s company goes bankrupt as the Crimean War ends and the Russian military cancel orders.

1862 Alfred Nobel starts his experiments with nitroglycerin.

1863 Alfred Nobel moves back to Stockholm and obtains the first patent on nitroglycerin (blasting oil) as an industrial explosive.

1864 Alfred Nobel patents a detonator (blasting cap) for triggering the explosion of nitroglycerin.

1866 Alfred Nobel tries to make nitroglycerin safer to handle. He finds that nitroglycerin is stabilized by the addition of kieselguhr (a type of sand) and calls this mixture dynamite.

1867 Alfred Nobel obtains a patent for dynamite in Sweden.

1873 At the age of 40, Alfred Nobel is a very wealthy man. He moves to Paris, France.

1876 Alfred Nobel advertises for a personal secretary, meets with Bertha Kinsky von Chinic und Tettau (later von Suttner) and hires her. She leaves his employment after a short time and becomes a leading peace activist.

1895 The third and final will of Alfred Nobel is signed at the Swedish-Norwegian Club in Paris, France.

1896 December 10th Alfred Nobel dies, at the age of 63, in his home in San Remo, Italy.

**KEY DEFINITIONS**

**Nitroglycerin**: A dense, colorless, oily, explosive liquid, invented in 1847 by Ascanio Sobrero. Nitroglycerin has been used ever since as an active ingredient in the manufacture of explosives and as such it is employed in the construction, demolition, and mining industries and by the military. Nitroglycerin has also been used for over 130 years in medicine as a potent vasodilator (dilation of the vascular system) to treat heart conditions.

**Dynamite**: An explosive made of nitroglycerin, sorbents (such as clay) and stabilizers, invented in 1866 by Alfred Nobel. Named after the ancient Greek word δύναμις (dýnamis), meaning “power”.

Emil, Alfred Nobel’s brother, is accidentally killed while working on the preparation of nitroglycerin.