Watt’s Friends

The Lunar Society were a group of friends who met at Soho House, the home of James Watt’s business partner Matthew Boulton. These men met on days when there was a full moon so they had enough light to travel home after a full dinner and this is why they are called the Lunar Society! Joining Boulton and Watt at these meetings were some of the cleverest people in the 18th century. They discussed science, art, business and new discoveries.

Josiah Wedgwood was an English potter and business man who invented many new pottery methods. He is most famous for his blue Jasperware objects.

Erasmus Darwin was a doctor who was also very interested in the natural world, in particular plants. He wrote many poems and was Charles Darwin’s grandfather.

William Withering was a botanist (plant scientist) who discovered that the foxglove plant or digitalis could be used as a medicine for people with heart disease.

Samuel Galton was a gun-maker who was also interested in the natural world. He wrote the first book about animals and natural history just for children.

Joseph Priestley was a scientist and clergyman who invented soda water and was one of the discoverers of the gas oxygen.

James Keir was a chemist, inventor and soldier who experimented with metal and glass and developed a gold coloured metal mixture or alloy.

Richard Lovell Edgeworth was an inventor who was also very interested in education. He invented many things but is famous for a book he wrote about how children would learn by playing with toys.

Meet some of the Lunar Men on this page and then draw a line to connect each man to an invention, discovery or interest that they are famous for on the next page.
Josiah Wedgwood
Erasmus Darwin
William Withering
Samuel Galton
Joseph Priestley
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Richard Lovell Edgeworth