

## John Dunlop

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**Announcer:** Listen to John Dunlop's biography.

**Narrator:** John Dunlop was born in the west of Scotland in 1840.

He went to school there and in 1859 he started work as a vet in Edinburgh.

In 1867 he moved to Ireland and worked as a vet there. Dunlop often had to go to farms. This was difficult because the roads in Ireland were awful.

One day in 1887 he noticed that his young son's tricycle was very uncomfortable. Its tyres were made of solid rubber. Dunlop took a garden hose and used it as a kind of tube. He put air in it and put the tube around the wheels. Riding the tricycle was much nicer with air in the tyres.

Dunlop wasn't the first person who invented a tyre like this. Another Scot, Robert Thomson, had the same idea in 1845.

But Dunlop's tyres were cheaper. In 1889 he started the Dunlop Rubber Company. The company was a success, but Dunlop didn't really become rich. He sold his part of the company in 1896. After that the Dunlop Rubber Company made tyres for the new cars. Dunlop's name became famous all around the world. Dunlop then lived quietly in Ireland. He died in 1921.