Grade 5 Understanding Earth and Space Systems –
Conservation of Energy and Resources

STORING ENERGY

Alessandro Volta:

The Father of the First Battery

During the time when many discoveries about electricity were being made, scientists realized that they needed a steady source of electricity for their research.

At the time, there was a widespread theory that electricity could only be generated from living things. However, a scientist named Alessandro Volta questioned this theory and believed instead that it was metals that were responsible for the electricity produced.

To prove this, Volta built a large pile of disks that contained silver, zinc, and pieces of cloth soaked in salt water. He then connected metal wires to both ends of the pile and was able to generate a continuous flow of electricity.

This pile is famously known as a Voltaic Pile and was the earliest form of the modern battery!

