

Lesson 7: Inventors

Getting Started

? Big Ideas

- How do citizens influence or change the community?
- How do members of a community help meet other members' needs?
- What roles do community members play?
- How do communities change over time?



Facts and Definitions

- An **invention** is something someone creates that is new.



Skills

- Identify the roles of leaders in the home and community (SS)
- Recognize the importance of technological design (S)
- Describe changes in a community (SS)
- Recognize how citizens in a community are affected by change (SS)
- Demonstrate familiarity with a variety of texts: biographies (LA)
- Elaborate on how information and events relate to life experience (LA)
- Compose a variety of written products using a writing process (LA)



Materials

- ✓ book on famous inventor your child might enjoy
 - ✓ colored pencils or markers
- learning about

Introduction

Ask your child if she knows what an invention is. Explain to her that an invention is something that someone creates that is new. Give some examples of famous inventions like the light bulb, television, and computer. Explain that inventions make our lives easier. Many inventors change whole communities because of their inventions. For example, the invention of the air conditioner made people much cooler in their homes during the hot summer. This changed communities all over America. People didn't have to go outside during the hot summer or leave their windows open at night. Discuss examples of other inventions that caused communities to change over time.

Activities

Activity 1: Famous Inventors

On the sheet "Famous Inventors" (Option 1 or 2) is a list of inventors and one thing that they invented. Talk about some of the most famous inventions or discoveries in history. Explain that there was a time when each invention did not exist. Ask your child to think about what life would be like without each invention and then encourage her to write a sentence about how each invention helped people all over America. Choose one of the following options.

Note: While Henry Ford did not invent the automobile, he did invent the first affordable car that was available to the average American. Carl Benz is credited for the actual invention of the *first* automobile. Most children will not be able to comprehend the difference at this age, but if your child is able to understand the difference, you could explain this to her. Henry Ford is a name that students should be familiar with, as they will study him in later years.

Option 1

This "Famous Inventors" (Option 1) sheet has a sentence structure provided. Discuss the fact that a sentence expresses a complete thought. It has a subject — the part of the sentence that tells what the sentence is about. Every sentence also has a predicate that tells what happens in the sentence. In the sentences on the sheet, ask your child to circle the subject and underline the predicate. Explain that the subject is all of the words that tell what the sentence is about (not just the noun), and the predicate is all the words that tell what happens (not just one verb).

Example: (The light bulb) helped people work late into the evening.

Option 2 (advanced)

The "Famous Inventors" (Option 2) sheet lets your child create her own sentences.

When your child has finished writing her sentences, discuss the fact that a sentence expresses a complete thought. Every sentence has a subject — the part of the sentence that tells what the sentence is about. Every sentence also has a predicate that tells what happens in the sentence. In the sentences your child wrote, ask her to circle the subject and underline the predicate of each sentence. Explain that the subject includes all of the words that tell what the sentence is about (not just the noun), and the predicate is all the words that tell what happens (not just the verb).

Example: (The light bulb) helped people work late into the evening.

Activity 2: Invention Scavenger Hunt

Ask your child to go on a scavenger hunt around her house to find at least five inventions. She should draw a picture of each one on the first page of the "Invention Scavenger Hunt" sheets. Next, ask her to fill in the invention's name and one way her family uses each invention. Ask her to look at each invention closely and identify the importance of each of its parts and discuss whether the invention would work if any of those parts were missing. Ask her to pick her favorite invention and write a paragraph about it using the guide on the second "Invention Scavenger Hunt" page.

Activity 3: A Famous Inventor

Read with your child a short biography about an inventor. Select an inventor that your child might find interesting. Once you have read the book together, ask your child the following questions:

- How would you describe the inventor?
- What was the inventor's most famous invention? What did it do?
- What was something interesting that happened to the inventor?
- How are you similar to the inventor?

Activity 4: My Own Invention

Explain that inventors are often very good at math and science. They must use their knowledge to create their inventions. Inventors are also very creative people. An invention usually solves a problem or makes life easier. Tell your child to think of something she could invent to help people. Ask her the following questions:

- What problem would your invention solve, or how would it make life easier?
- Who would use your invention?
- Would it help the community? How?
- What materials would you need to build your invention?
- What would you call your invention?

Ask her to draw a picture of her invention and label the parts.

Note: To extend this activity, help your child gather materials to construct her invention. Even if she can't gather real materials, she can use pretend materials to represent the parts of her invention. If your child is very interested in inventions, read about Rube Goldberg on the Internet.

Wrapping Up

Ask your child what it means to invent something, and ask if her to give you different examples of inventions. Ask her how inventions can change communities.

Famous Inventors

Directions: Write a sentence about how each invention helped the community.

1.



Henry Ford invented a car.

The **car** helped people _____

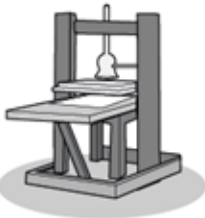
2.



Thomas Edison invented the light bulb.

The **light bulb** helped people _____

3.



Johann Gutenberg invented the printing press.

The **printing press** helped people _____

4.



Ben Franklin invented a stove.

The **stove** helped people _____

5.



Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.

The **telephone** helped people _____

6.



George Washington Carver devised over 100 products using peanuts. These included dyes, plastics, and gasoline.

Plastics helped people _____

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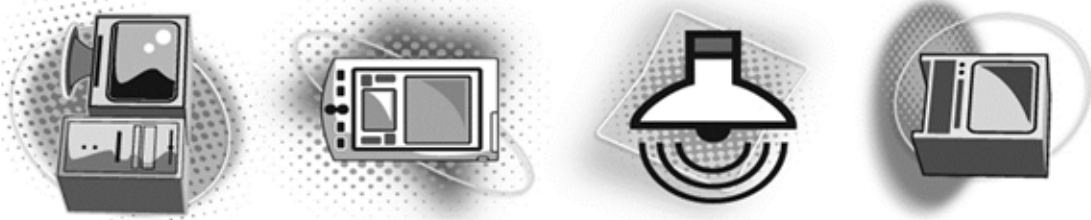
Invention Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Find five inventions in your house. Draw each one in a box and complete the sentence. Then write about your favorite invention on the following page.

<p>We use the _____ to _____.</p>	
<p>We use the _____ to _____.</p>	<p>We use the _____ to _____.</p>
<p>We use the _____ to _____.</p>	<p>We use the _____ to _____.</p>

Invention Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Write a paragraph about your favorite invention from the list of inventions you found in your house.



The _____ is my favorite invention.

The thing I like most about _____ is _____

I also like _____

_____. The invention helps people _____.

If we didn't have this invention, _____

