



Young Inventors Worksheet- IS YOUR IDEA AN INVENTION?



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Lots of inventors discover that someone else has thought of the idea for an invention before them. An invention is something new. Once you think of an idea for an invention, the next step is to discover if it is a new idea or just new to you.

STEPS FOR DISCOVERING IF YOUR IDEA FOR AN INVENTION IS NEW

1. Find catalogs or magazines related to your idea for an invention. Page through them to see if there are any products like your idea.

Catalog/Magazine

Results?

2. Call a store that sells things that are like your invention or are in the same category. For examples, toys, utensils, safety gear. Ask them if they know of anything that is like your idea for your invention.

Name of Store

Results?

3. Go on the Internet. Use Google or another search engine. Type words that describe your invention in a variety of ways. For example, if you invented a new kind of ice cream cone, you could use the search words "ice cream cone" or "ice cream cones" or even "edible container."

Website

Results?

4. Do a Patent Search. Go to www.uspto.gov. Look for patent search tips. Search for items like your idea that have received a patent.

If you find a product like yours, don't give up. Lots of invention are innovations,

improvements of existing inventions. Can you improve on the existing product? How?