What is an invention? INVENTIONS are NEW and USEFUL

Getting An Idea
Inventors get ideas for inventions in many ways. Sometimes it is by accident. Sometimes it is when they are doing ordinary activities. They notice something that bothers them and they try to solve the problem with an invention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What bothers you about?</th>
<th>What’s your solution?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washing or feeding your pet?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Playing a sport?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Doing your chores</td>
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What problems do you have eating an ice cream cone? Try drawing a design a new kind of ice cream cone.

INNOVATIONS
An invention can be NEW and USEFUL and also be an IMPROVEMENT of an existing invention. That is a kind of invention called an INNOVATION. Can you list improvements or innovations for some familiar items?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Televisions</th>
<th>Bicycles</th>
<th>Telephones</th>
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NAMING AN INVENTION
Inventors name their inventions in lots of ways. Some name them for themselves. One man named the breakfast cereal he created after himself. His first name was George. He named his product using his last name. Can you guess his last name?

His product is called ________________ Corn Flakes.

Some inventors name their inventions for what they are or do. Bette Graham invented a paint to cover her typing mistakes. She first called it Mistake Out. Later, she renamed it ____________ Paper.

Other inventors think up funny names for their invention products. For example, Slinky or Hula Hoop. Can you think of another product with funny name? _____________________________________________________

TRADEMARKS identify a product or place. Anyone in business can establish a trademark by using it as long as it isn’t too much like the trademark of another business. Businesses use a ™ or a ® to identify their trademark. ® means that the trademark has been registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Look at some products in your backpack, purse, house or school. What is the name of one item with the mark ™? ____________________________

What is the name of one item with the mark ®? ____________________________

Can you guess the name of the companies that own the trademarks below?

1. ______________  2. ______________  3. _____________  4. _________  5. ___________
PATENTING AN INVENTION

Inventors protect their inventions by gaining a PATENT. The U.S. Government grants patents that give inventors the right to be the only ones who can sell an invention. Look at the patent drawings below and try to answer the questions.

Name of the inventor on top and bottom of patent? ___________________________________________  ___________________________________________

Date patent was granted and patent number? ___________________________________________  ___________________________________________

What is the name of the invention? ___________________________________________  ___________________________________________

LOOK AROUND YOUR HOUSE, CLASSROOM OR IN YOUR BACKPACK: Find a toy, tool, electronic device, etc. and look for the patent number. What did you find?

Item: __________________________ Patent Number: ______________________

1. __________________________  1. __________________________

💡 WHAT’S YOUR IDEA FOR AN INVENTION? NAME OF IT? ___________________________________________

Write a short description and make a sketch! Have a witness sign their name to prove that someone saw your idea.

Witness Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________________

Witness Name: __________________________