

Young Inventors Worksheet



Prepared by Susan Casey, author of *Kids Inventing! A Handbook for Young Inventors* and *Women Invent! Two Centuries of Discoveries That Have Shaped Our World*
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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.

What bothers you about:

What's your solution?

Washing or feeding your pet?	
Playing a sport?	
Doing your chores	

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?

Televisions	Bicycles	Telephones
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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 TM 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 TM? _____

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. _____

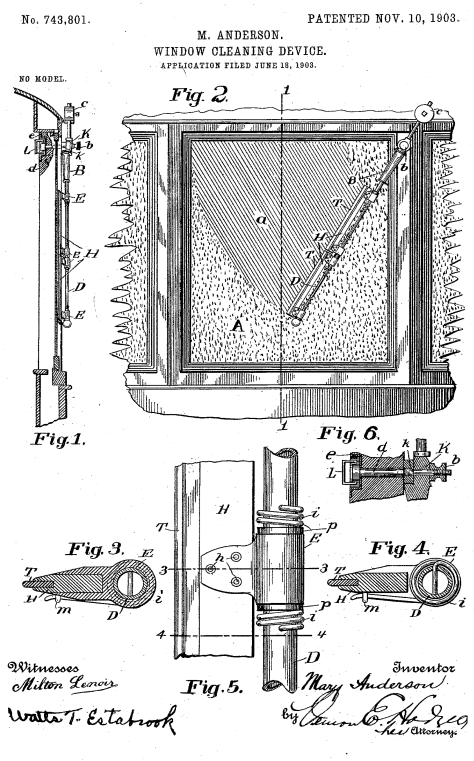
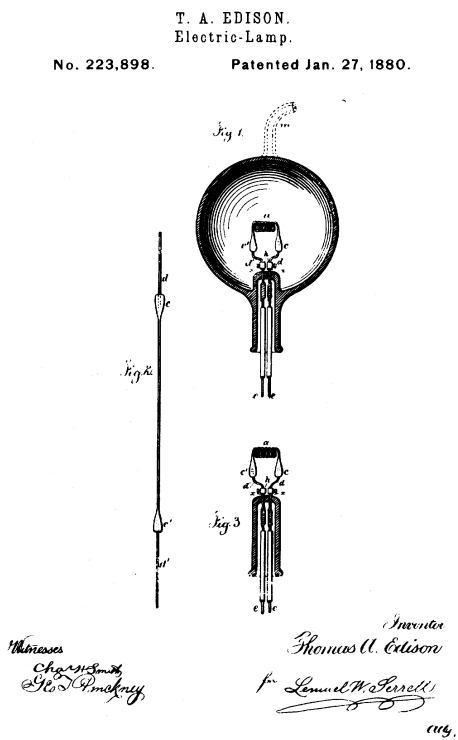
3. _____

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

Date patent was granted and patent number? Date patent was granted and patent number?

What is the name of the invention? 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 _____

Answers: Trademarks: Pillsbury: the Doughboy, Apple Computers, General Mills: Trix Rabbit, NBC, Morton Salt. Patents: T.A. Edison, Thomas A. Edison, 1/27/1880, 223,898, Electric Lamp; M. Anderson, Mary Anderson, 11/10/1903, Window Cleaning Device.
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