



Young Inventors Worksheet- IS YOUR IDEA AN INVENTION?

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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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.

STEP 1. LOOK

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

Name of Catalog/Magazine

Results?

A.

B.

STEP 2. CALL

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?

A.

B.

STEP 3. SEARCH

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?

A.

B.

STEP 4. IMPROVE

If you find a product like yours, don't give up. Lots of inventions are innovations. That means they are improvements of existing inventions. How can you change your invention so it improves the existing product? OR How can you improve your invention?