

Inventions in Victorian times

Many inventions were made in Victorian times. Here are just a few.

1853 Sir George Caly designed the first glider to carry a person.

1888 J. Dunlop invented the pneumatic (air filled) rubber tyre.

1854 W.B. Wilkinson invented reinforced concrete.

1856 H. Bessemer invents a cheap way of making iron into steel.

1892 Sir James Dewar invented the thermos flask.

1901 H. Booth invented the vacuum cleaner.

1852 H. Giffard invented the airship.

1878 J. Swann invented a light bulb.

1839 K. Macmillan invented the bicycle.

1843 I. K Brunel's ship the Great Britain had a hull made of iron and a screw propeller.

1837 S Morse invents a code to send messages along telegraph wires.

1839 W. H. Fox Talbot invents paper for making photographs.

1878 T.A. Edison invented the gramophone.

1885 K Benz invented the motor car with a petrol engine.

1899 G. Marconi invented the radio.

1850 A. Parkes invented a plastic that was used to make combs.

1875 A.G. Bell invented the telephone.

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Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

Copies of the worksheet. Access to other sources of information about inventions.

Using the worksheet

The inventors listed on the worksheet are mainly from the UK. The exceptions are Giffard (France), Morse (USA), Benz (Germany) and Marconi (Italy). The inventions have been selected for their relevance to everyday use or to transport. Two items which may seem to be exceptions to this are reinforced concrete (but it is used in many buildings today) and steel (most metal objects especially cutlery and cars are made from steel). Any brief survey of inventions in Victorian times must be incomplete and you may like the students to research the origins of other inventions in that time. The students must be made aware that just because something was invented it did not go straight into everyday use. You may like to draw a parallel with new inventions today in television, mobile phone and computer technology. They tend to be used first by the rich because the products are expensive.

Older students

The students can cut out the items on the work sheet and make a timeline of inventions. They may like to keep this and use it in activity 21 (page 128). They could also look up other inventions connected with everyday life such as gas ovens and toilets.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Make a timeline from a list of information.
- Use secondary sources to research inventions in Victorian times.

Younger students

The students can cut out the items on the work sheet and make a timeline of inventions. They may like to keep this and use it in activity 21 (page 126).

Outcomes

The students can:

- Make a timeline from a list of information.