

Discoveries and Inventions

WORKSHEET 1

1. Using the words in the box, complete the following statements:

the motorcycle	jeans	the zip	the aeroplane	liquid paper
the aqualung	the sandwich	the telephone	the safety pin	
the aerosol spray can	tea bags	adhesive tape	the ballpoint pen	x-rays

When?

1. The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell. 1876
2. _____ was invented by Gottlieb Daimler. _____
3. _____ were invented by Thomas Sullivan. _____
4. _____ was developed by Gideon Sundbach. _____
5. _____ was invented by the Wright brothers. _____
6. _____ were discovered by W. K. von Roentgen. _____
7. _____ was invented by the Biro brothers. _____
8. _____ was invented by Bessie Nesmith. _____
9. _____ was invented by Cousteau and Gagnan. _____
10. _____ was invented by Eric Rotheim. _____
11. _____ were invented by Levi Strauss. _____
12. _____ was invented by Richard G. Drew. _____
13. _____ was invented by John Montagu. _____
14. _____ was invented by Walter Hunt. _____

2. Check your answers on Worksheet 2 and find out when each of these inventions and discoveries took place.

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WORKSHEET 2

ADHESIVE TAPE

Richard G. Drew (1886-1956) invented masking tape and clear adhesive tape (also called cellophane tape or Scotch tape) in 1930. Drew was an engineer for the 3M (Minnesota Mining) company.

AEROSOL SPRAY CAN

The first aerosol can was invented by Erik Rotheim of Norway. On November 23, 1927, Rotheim patented a can with a valve and propellant systems - it could hold and dispense liquids.

AEROPLANE

The first working aeroplane was invented, designed, made, and flown by the Wright brothers, Wilbur (1867-1912) and Orville (1871-1948). On December 17, 1903, the "Flyer" flew a distance of 37m for 12 seconds at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, USA.

AQUALUNG

The aqualung is a breathing apparatus that supplies oxygen to divers and allows them to stay underwater for several hours. It was invented in 1943 by Jacques-Yves Cousteau and Emile Gagnan. This safe, easy-to-use, and reliable device was the first modern scuba system.

SANDWICH

The sandwich was invented by John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich (1718-1792). In 1762, the story goes, he was too involved in a card game to have a formal meal, so he instructed his cook to put some meat between two slices of bread to save him time. He named the snack after himself.

ZIP

The zip was developed in 1913 by the Swedish-American engineer, Gideon Sundback. He was successful at selling his invention, which he called the *Hookless 2*. He sold these fasteners to the US Army, who put zips on soldiers' clothing and equipment during World War I.

LIQUID PAPER

Liquid Paper is a quick-drying, paper-coloured (white) liquid that is painted onto paper to correct printed material. Liquid Paper was invented in 1951 by Bessie Nesmith (1922-1980). Nesmith was a secretary in Texas, USA, before the time of word processors. She began selling her popular invention, and soon ran the very successful Liquid Paper company. Her son, Michael Nesmith, was a member of the Sixties rock group *The Monkees*.

SAFETY PIN

The safety pin was invented by Walter Hunt in 1849. Hunt's pin was made by twisting a length of wire. Hunt invented the safety pin in order to pay a debt of \$15; he eventually sold the rights to his patent for \$400.

JEANS

Levi Strauss (1829-1902) was an entrepreneur who invented and marketed blue jeans. In 1873, Strauss patented the idea of using copper rivets at the stress points of sturdy work trousers. They were sold initially to the miners of the Californian Gold Rush.

TEA BAGS

Tea bags were invented by Thomas Sullivan around 1908. The first bags were made from silk. Sullivan was a tea and coffee merchant in New York who began packaging tea samples in tiny silk bags. Many of his customers brewed their tea in the bags rather than in the traditional way of brewing loose tea in a teapot, and the tea bag was born.

MOTORCYCLE

A gas-powered motorcycle was invented by the German inventor Gottlieb Daimler in 1885. His mostly wooden motorcycle had iron-banded wheels with wooden spokes. This bone-crunching vehicle was powered by a single-cylinder engine.

TELEPHONE

The telephone (meaning "far sound") is the most widely used telecommunications device. It was invented in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell. His device transmitted speech sounds over electric wires.

BALLPOINT PEN

The first non-leaking ballpoint pen was invented in 1935 by the Hungarian brothers Lazlo and Georg Biro. Lazlo was a chemist and Georg was a newspaper editor. The brothers patented their invention and then opened the first ballpoint manufacturing plant in Argentina, South America.

X-RAYS

X-rays were discovered in 1895 by Wilhelm Konrad von Roentgen. He was a German physicist who discovered that, with the help of radiation, he could photograph objects (including part of his own skeleton) that were hidden behind opaque shields. Roentgen called these waves "X-radiation" because so little was known about them.