

STATION 4 – INVENTIONS TIMELINE

- 1. Your group will have 6 (six) inventions descriptions and 6 blank invention cards.**
- 2. Your group will read about 6 inventions: The electric light bulb, the telephone, the typewriter, the radio, the electric elevator, and the Model T car.**
- 3. Your Group Leader will assign 1 (or 2) inventions to each group member. Each group member will read the description of the invention and write the following information for his or her invention on the blank invention cards:**
 - The date it was invented (or improved)**
 - Who invented it**
 - The inventions significance (why the invention was important) according to the inventions description (NOT according to your opinion!)**
- 4. After each group member completes filling in the significance on the blank invention card, a different group member will double check the work and add additional notes if needed.**
- 5. As a group, you will decide the order each item was invented according to the dates.**
- 6. On your construction paper timeline, the recorder will glue the invention cards in date order. (The earliest invention will start on the left side of the timeline).**

A blank example timeline is available at your station.

- 7. Once your group has completed ONE timeline, you will add the timeline to your Group Folder.**

INVENTIONS



What is it?: Electric light bulb

Date invented: 1876

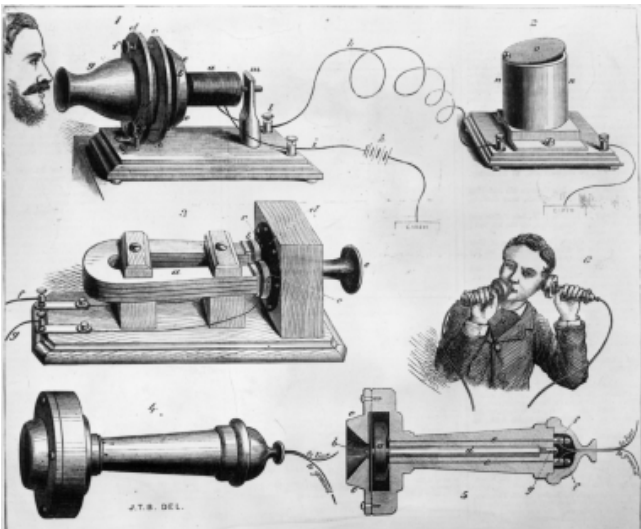
Who invented it?: Thomas Edison

Description:

Thomas Edison figured out how to make a safe, steady electric light bulb.

He was **NOT** the **FIRST** to invent the light bulb, but his was the best and could be used by the average person!

He also invented a system to deliver electricity to buildings and homes. Once electricity was available in homes, many new electric inventions were developed.



What is it?: Telephone

Date invented: 1876

Who invented it?: Alexander Graham Bell

Description:

After years of experiments, the telephone was invented in 1876. Bell's breakthrough was actually an accident!

While working, Bell spilled acid on himself and said to his assistant in the next room, "Mr. Watson, come here, I want you."

Watson burst into the laboratory, exclaiming that he had heard Bell's words through the receiver!

The telephone industry grew quickly and worked through an invention called the switchboard. Calls would come in and the switchboard operator would pass the call to the correct destination. Because of the telephone and the switch board, many jobs were created for women.



INVENTIONS



What is it?: Typewriter

Who invented it?: Christopher Latham Sholes

Date invented: 1867

Description: A typewriter was used to type on paper, an older version of our computers today.

Sholes was not the first to invent a type writer, but the first to invent one that was successfully used in commercial businesses.

Previous typewriters were very slow and the keys were in alphabetical order. Sholes invented a typewriter where the keys that were used most often were farther apart on the keyboard.

Now, it would take the person typing an extra second to move their finger to the next (most often used) key and this change led to less key jams!



What is it?: Radio

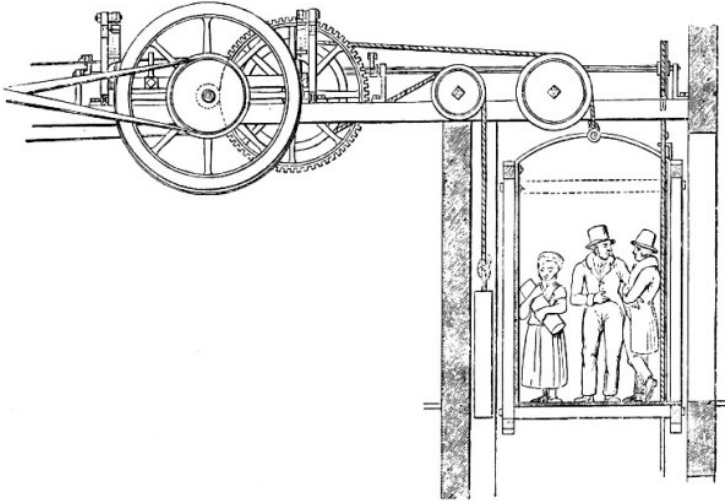
Who invented it?: Guglielmo Marconi

Date invented: 1895

Description: Marconi was an Italian who invented the first machine that could transmit and receive radio waves. It did not have any wires and was used originally as a telegraph machine, sending information across countries! (Keep in mind, the telephone needed telephone wires to connect people. There were no telephone lines that could cross oceans!)

Marconi's wireless telegraph transmitted only signals through air waves. Voice and music over the air, as we know radio today, came about 25 years later.

INVENTIONS



What is it?: Electric elevator

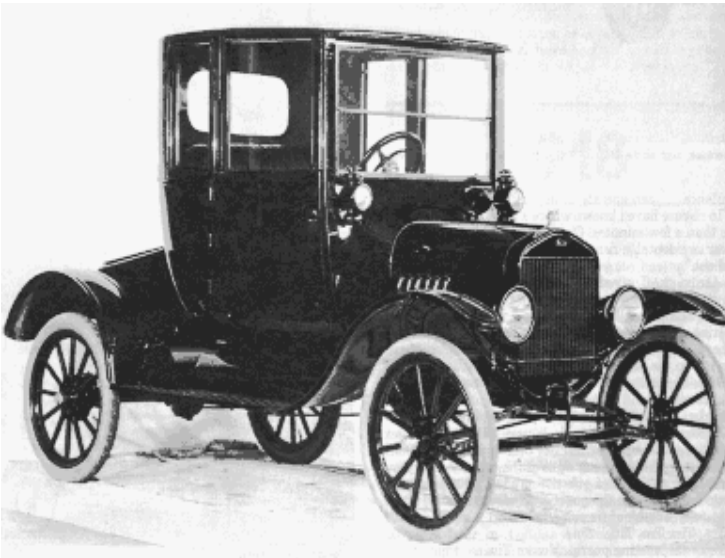
Who invented it?: Elisha Otis

Date invented: 1889

Description: This was the first elevator that was safe for passenger use. Elevators had been used before, but if the cable holding the elevator broke, the elevator would come crashing down with everyone inside.

Otis invented a safety device that would stop the elevator from falling if the cable broke. It also had an electric motor.

Elevators could now be installed in buildings, which led to the world's first skyscrapers. Previously, buildings were not usually more than 4 or 5 stories, since people did not want to climb more than 5 flights of stairs.



What is it?: Model T Car

Date invented: 1908

Who invented it?: Henry Ford

Description: This was the first affordable car for the middle-class family.

This was also the **FIRST** mass-produced car, put together on an assembly line, with interchangeable parts (parts that were the same, or identical, for all the cars made. They could be taken off and put back on any Model T).

Mass production means making large quantities (amounts) of a product quickly and cheaply. It was made possible with Henry Ford's idea of an **assembly line**, where each worker stays in one place as products move to them on a belt. Each worker is responsible to put together a small piece of the larger product.

Because of mass production and the use of the assembly line, Henry Ford could make his cars faster and then sell his cars at a lower price than other automakers.

Henry Ford once said this about the car:

"I will build a car for the great multitude [many people]. It will be large enough for the family, but small enough for the individual to run and care for. It will be constructed [made] of the best materials, by the best men to be hired, after the simplest designs that modern engineering can devise (think of). But it will be so low in price that no man making a good salary will be unable to own one – and enjoy with his family the blessing of hours of pleasure in God's great open spaces."

TYPEWRITER

Date:

Inventor:

Significance according to the inventions
description:

ELECTRIC LIGHT BULB

Date:

Inventor:

Significance according to the inventions
description:

MODEL T CAR

Date:

Inventor:

Significance according to the inventions
description:

TELEPHONE

Date:

Inventor:

Significance according to the inventions
description:

RADIO

Date:

Inventor:

Significance according to the inventions
description:

ELECTRIC LIGHT BULB

Date:

Inventor:

Significance according to the inventions
description: