

INVENTION BIRTHDAYS

A THINK-PAIR-SHARE ACTIVITY

INDIVIDUAL THINKING

1. Review the **Alphabetical List of Notable Inventions** on pages 2 and 3. Recall any information you may have learned about the invention's beginnings and its early history, including who designed it and when and where it was produced. Space is provided in the table for you to make notes about your thinking.

To help with your thinking, there is also a list of years at the top of the page as to when the inventions were developed; however, the years are not matched with a specific invention---that's for you to determine. Dates given are those when the item came into popular use, not when the government issued a patent to the inventor. (A patent is a legal document giving permission only to the inventor to make, use, or sell an item---usually for a limited period of time. After that time, others may also produce the item.)



2. Review the list of dates and events on the **Timeline of American History** on pages 4 through 6.
3. On the **Timeline of Inventions**, write the name of the invention next to what you believe is its correct "birth" date. You may have to write in the year if its "birth" date falls between the years listed in the middle column. Follow the style used for entries on the **Timeline of American History**.

PAIRED THINKING AND SHARING

4. Review with your partner(s) the chronological order you have predicted for the inventions. Discuss the placement of the inventions in this order. Make any revisions you feel are appropriate.
5. Depending on your teacher's instructions, join in the full-class discussion of the predicted events or collaborate with other students to refine your thinking.

AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF NOTABLE INVENTIONS, MY THOUGHTS REGARDING THEM, AND THEIR POSSIBLE YEARS OF PRODUCTION

Years: 1849 1867 1902 1928 1945 1950 1958 1959 1976 1977 1983 1993

INVENTION	MY THOUGHTS	POSSIBLE YEAR
Apple computer		
Atomic bomb		
Barbie doll		
Beanie Babies		
Blue jeans		
Frisbee by Wham-O		

AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF NOTABLE INVENTIONS, continued

INVENTION	MY THOUGHTS	POSSIBLE YEAR
Hula hoop		
Mickey Mouse		
Nintendo		
Star Wars action figures		
Teddy bears		
Typewriter		

WEB RESOURCES

ABOUT.COM: FAMOUS INVENTIONS A-Z (<http://inventors.about.com/library/bl/bl12.htm>)

THE GREAT IDEA FINDER: CHRONOLOGICAL INNOVATION TIMELINE (<http://www.ideafinder.com/history/timeline.htm>)

HISTORYCHANNEL.COM: TIMELINE OF TOYS AND GAMES (<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/toys/timeline.html>)

HISTORYTIMELINE.COM (<http://www.historytimeline.com/Norm/normindex.htm>)

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION: AMERICAN HISTORY TIMELINE (<http://www.smithsonian.org/resource/faq/nmah/timeline.htm>)

TIMELINE OF AMERICAN HISTORY	YEAR	TIMELINE OF INVENTIONS
1849 California Gold Rush		
	1850	
	1855	
1858 Overland stagecoach mail delivery begins, connecting East to West		
	1860	
1863 Congress initiates free mail delivery in cities		
1865 The American Civil War ends	1865	
1867 The Alaska Territory is purchased		
1869 The Transcontinental Railroad is completed		
	1870	
1871 The first professional baseball players association is formed		
	1875	
1878 An amendment giving women the right to vote is rejected by Congress		
	1880	
1883 US and Canada standardize time zones to support railroad schedules		
	1885	
1886 The Statue of Liberty is opened to the public		
	1890	
1891 The first basketball is invented		
	1895	
1900 There are 1.5 million telephones in the United States	1900	
1901 Theodore Roosevelt becomes President		
1903 The Wright Brothers have their first successful flight		

TIMELINE OF AMERICAN HISTORY		YEAR	TIMELINE OF INVENTIONS
1905	The first "nickelodeon" opens; moving pictures can be seen for five cents	1905	
		1910	
1912	The Titanic sinks with great loss of life		
		1915	
1917	The United States enters World War I		
1920	Prohibition begins; no liquor can be sold in the United States	1920	
1920	The 19th Amendment gives US women citizens the right to vote		
		1925	
1927	Lindbergh flies nonstop from New York City to Paris		
1930	The first supermarket opens in the United States	1930	
1932	Amelia Earhart is the first woman to fly solo over the Atlantic Ocean		
1935	The Social Security Act is passed, guaranteeing older Americans an income after retirement	1935	
		1940	
1941	The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor; the US enters WWII		
1945	World War II ends	1945	
1947	Jackie Robinson is the first African American to play baseball for a major league team		
		1950	
1955	Disneyland opens in California	1955	
1955	The first McDonald's opens		
1957	Sputnik is launched by the Russians, beginning the "Space Race"		
1959	Alaska and Hawaii become the 49th and 50th states		

TIMELINE OF AMERICAN HISTORY	YEAR	TIMELINE OF INVENTIONS
	1960	
1961 President Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps		
1964 The Beatles become world-famous musicians		
	1965	
1966 The National Organization for Women increases interest in women's rights		
1969 Neil Armstrong walks on the moon		
1970 The Environmental Protection Agency is established	1970	
1971 The minimum age for voting in US elections is lowered to 18		
1974 President Nixon resigns		
	1975	
1976 The United States celebrates its bicentennial (200th birthday)		
	1980	
1981 The PC (personal computer) is developed by IBM		
1981 The first US space shuttle, the Columbia, is launched		
1984 The Macintosh computer with a mouse is introduced		
	1985	
1989 E-mail becomes increasingly popular		
	1990	
1991 The Gulf War begins with "Operation Desert Storm"		
1992 Bill Clinton becomes President of the United States		
	1995	
1999 US turns over control of the Panama Canal to the government of Panama		
	2000	