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Look around you! What objects do you see? There is probably a story about how each thing was invented.

Now imagine something that has never been seen before. Could you invent it? Keep reading to learn how inventors have turned ideas into real products that changed the world.



Best Ideas Ever

Inventions solve problems and meet needs. The best ideas can change everything!

Before the invention of the light bulb, work and play had to end when the Sun went down. After the light bulb was invented, people could be **productive** much later into the night.



Is it True?



English plumber Thomas Crapper helped popularize the flush toilet in the late 1800s.

What helps make a clean and healthy **society**?
Toilets! They keep human waste in its place and prevent disease. The S-trap was a key invention in the history of the toilet. That's the part at the base that traps smelly gases.

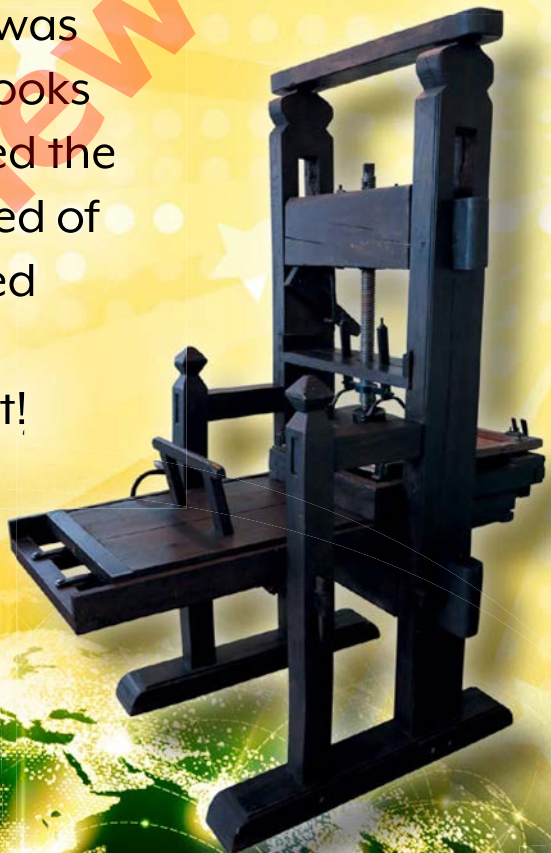


Many technologies were first imagined in science fiction.

“Communicators” from *Star Trek* inspired mobile phones. Voice-controlled robots from *Star Wars* led to inventions such as Apple’s Siri.



After the printing press was invented in the 1400s, books and newspapers traveled the world on ships. The speed of information never slowed down. About 500 years later, we got the Internet!



The invention of the airplane let people see Earth in a new way. When Neil Armstrong went to the moon, he took a piece of the plane the Wright brothers first flew in 1903.



**Wright Brothers National Memorial,
Outer Banks, North Carolina**

Lost to History

The Fiske Reading Machine let people read teeny, tiny books. The idea was that micro-books would be more **efficient**. They would cost less and be easier to mail. The device never took off.



The Cyclomer was the world's first amphibious bicycle, meant to be used on land and water.

It did not work well on either.

Love It's True?



Lumber companies once sold wooden bathing suits. Ads claimed they were fashionable and buoyant. The suits may have floated, but the idea did not.

