

KEEPING STUDENTS WELL INFORMED AT HOME WHILE THEY'RE DISTANCE LEARNING.



The wheel is arguably the most important invention of all time. The solid wooden disk wheel is thought to have been invented about 6,500 years ago, in the late Neolithic Period.

WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

A timeline of INVENTIONS

People have been inventing things since prehistoric times. But the last 600 years have been remarkable in the impact inventions have had on civilization. This page is too small to show all the major inventions. Maybe you can think of some we missed.

By Definition

Invention is the creation of a new device, process or product. Invention is different from **discovery** in that an invention is the making of something new that never existed before, while discovery is when something that exists in nature is observed or recognized for the first time. Humans discovered fire, but they invented the match to light a fire.

An **innovation** is not an invention, but a new way of doing something that had traditionally been done another way. Henry Ford did not invent the automobile, but he used innovations like the assembly line to make more cars at affordable prices.

Motivations

There are many motivations to invent. Some people hope to make money; others invent because of the creative urge or curiosity. There is an old saying: "Necessity is the mother of invention." In many ways, this is true. If an invention does not satisfy a need, it won't be successful. But just because we want or need something doesn't mean it will automatically be invented. Invention takes knowledge, technical ability and creativity.

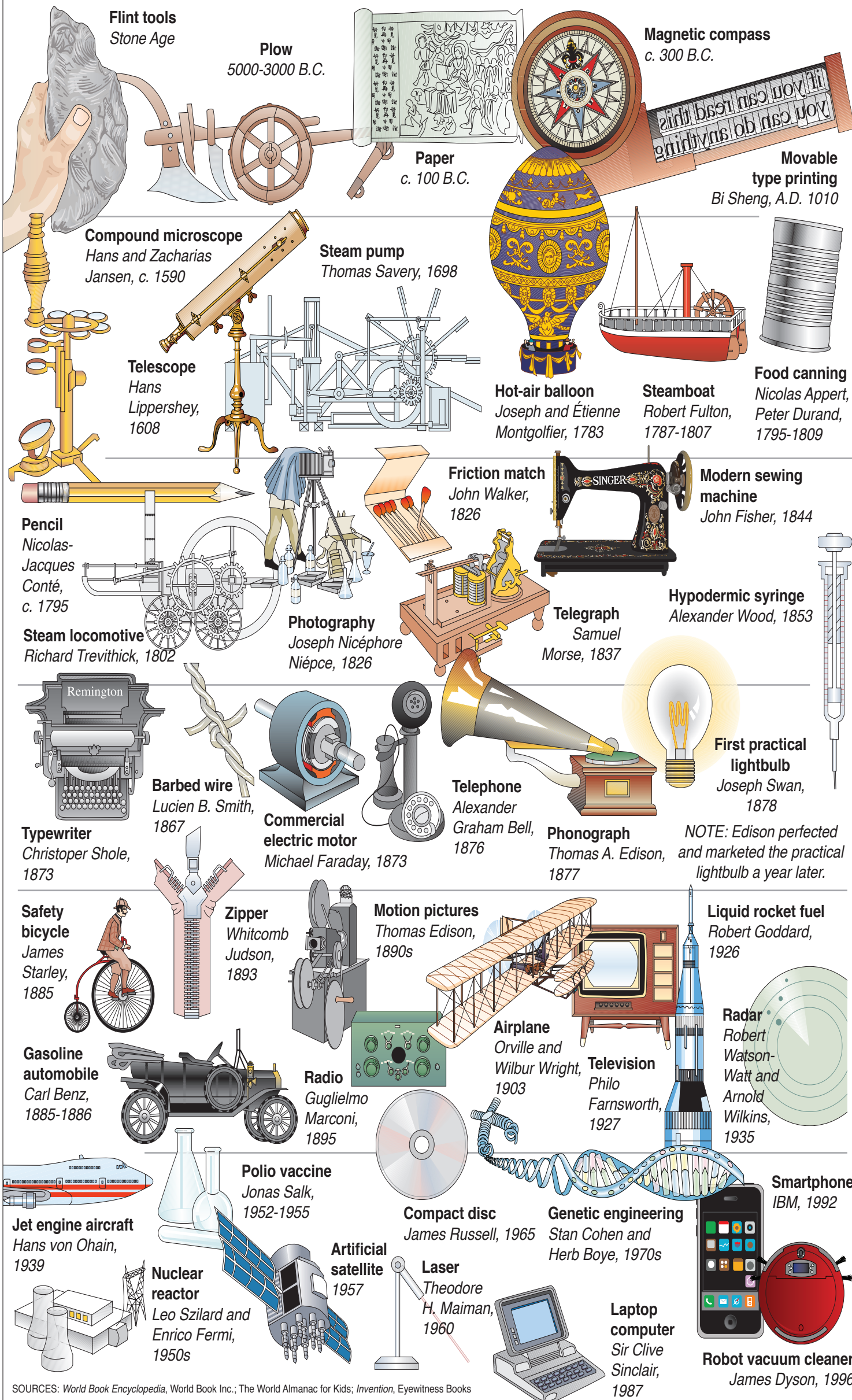
Inspiration

A surprising number of inventions seem to have been inspired by science fiction. American inventor Simon Lake was inspired by Jules Verne's idea of a submarine.

The "Star Trek" science fiction crew used a "communicator" that bears a striking resemblance to modern cellphones. Sadly, we are still waiting for a matter transport system similar to the one on that show.

In 1964, the science fiction writer Isaac Asimov predicted self-driving "robot-brain" cars would be a reality in 50 years — and today we have self-driving cars.

You can probably make a long list of other science-fiction-inspired inventions.



SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; The World Almanac for Kids; Invention, Eyewitness Books

Chat with the author and like us on Facebook — www.facebook.com/worldofwonder2014

LEARN ABOUT **BRIDGES** IN THE NEXT INSTALLMENT OF WORLD OF WONDER

CASA GRANDE
Dispatch
Pinal County's Daily Newspaper

Newspapers
in Education

OUR WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION PAGE CAN BE A FUN LEARNING TOOL FOR YOUR KIDS. CHECK BACK EACH THURSDAY FOR A NEW, EXCITING TOPIC!

CASA GRANDE
Dispatch

TO SUBSCRIBE:
(520) 423-8685



© 2020 Trifield Studios, Inc.
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication