

Interesting Inventors

Amazing Fact

Playdough was accidentally invented in 1955 by Joseph and Noah McVicker while they were trying to make an improved wallpaper cleaner. It was first marketed as a toy a year later.

Challenge

Use the Internet or non-fiction books to complete the challenges below about important inventors in history.



Task 1

Match the scientist with their achievements.

Lord Kelvin...

...invented the first modern toothpaste.

Joseph Priestley...

...discovered oxygen.

Gerald Durrell...

...found the temperature of absolute zero.

William Sheffield...

...conserved endangered plants and animals.

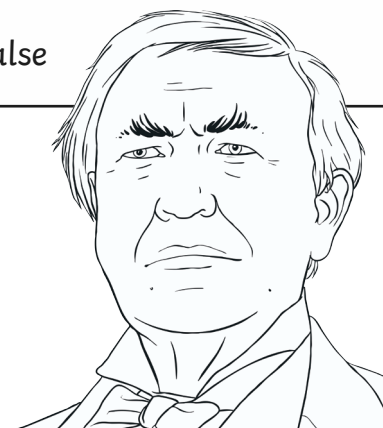
Task 2

Are these statements true or false? Circle your answer.

1. Thomas Edison invented the first ever lightbulb. True/False
2. Lord Kelvin discovered that absolute zero is 0°. True/False
3. Gerald Durrell set up his first zoo in Jersey. True/False
4. Joseph Priestley discovered and named oxygen. True/False
5. Alexander Graham Bell worked as a teacher of deaf people. True/False
6. William Sheffield invented the first toothpaste in a tube. True/False

You could also try to find out:

- what else has been invented accidentally;
- which inventors have had their inventions stolen;
- how inventors can stop others copying their inventions;
- what the biggest playdough sculpture ever was.



Interesting Inventors **Answers**

Task 1

Lord Kelvin...found the temperature of absolute zero.

Joseph Priestley... discovered oxygen.

Gerald Durrell...conserved endangered plants and animals.

William Sheffield... invented the first modern toothpaste.

Task 2

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. True