

DISCOVER THE STORIES BEYOND

Many of the things you have at home were once nothing more than an idea. Look around your room: books, a computer, a smartphone, some Post-its on the desk. Or think of your journey to school. Maybe you ride a bike, or you take the bus, and stop at the traffic lights, and over the weekend you go to the movies or play soccer or meet up with friends for an ice cream. Everywhere you look, you will see inventions that have changed the world. Some are the result of many years spent in a laboratory by individuals or by teams. Other inventions grow out of everyday situations. And some can even be the result of chance. Come with us on a fascinating trip back through history and find out how some people have turned their ideas into great inventions—and how they seized opportunities, had faith in their ideas, and had the courage to try something new.

As you read this book, you will often come across the word “patent.” This is a legal protection—when someone invents something, they can register it with the state authorities under a patent, which makes it clear that the invention is their property. With this in place, nobody else is allowed to copy the invention or earn money from it without the inventor’s permission.

At the top of each page, you will find dates. They’re to let you know when people started to think about the invention. Some of them are quite some time ago!

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