

QUEST FOR THE PERFECT INVENTION

Dear Researcher,

Your quest today is to investigate, to learn,
and to become an inventor yourself!

STEP 1 — LEARN ABOUT AN INVENTION

TO DO LIST

- Think of an object that you use. The object could be a toy, a prepared food (such as Twinkies), a video game, a digital camera, a traffic light, etc.
- Using a search engine, enter “History of the _____” in the search field. Find out everything you can about the object you selected. When was it invented? How was it invented? Why did it become a success?

STEP 2 — STUDY THE INVENTOR

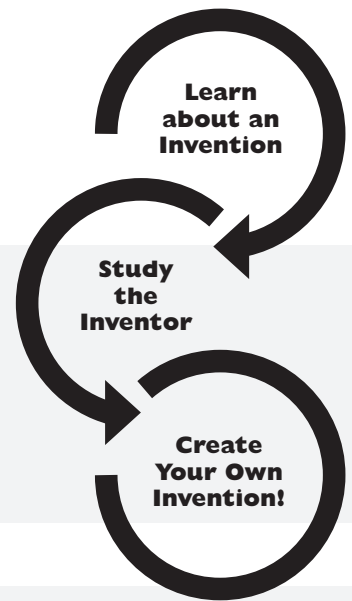
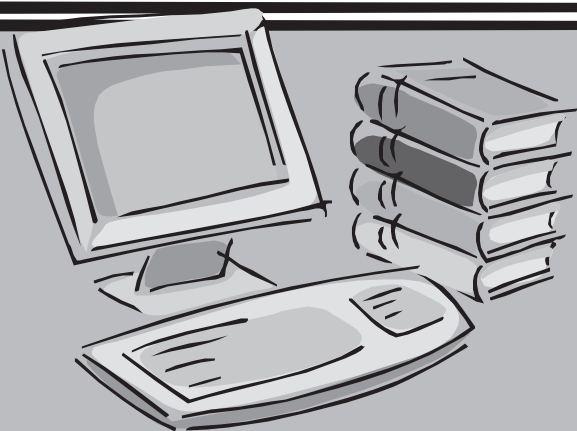
TO DO LIST

- As you researched your invention, did you come across the inventor’s name? What can you learn about the inventor of this object? Use the resources in your library including databases, and Internet sources, and print resources to find out more. When did your inventor live? How did she get her ideas? How did he market his ideas?
- Did the inventor become a success? Why or why not?

STEP 3 — CREATE YOUR OWN INVENTION

TO DO LIST

- Think, listen, and observe! What are people complaining about? What causes someone difficulty? What is something you have to do over and over again that you wish would be quicker to do? Is there something that is polluting the earth that could be done in a greener way? Keep a list of your observations.
- Look over your list and focus on something that interests you. Talk to people about your observations. Do they agree that is a problem? What ideas or refinements do they have?
- Sketch out your ideas. Make a prototype.



***If you took away everything in the world
that had to be invented,
there'd be nothing left except
a lot of people getting rained on.***

~Tom Stoppard

CREATE YOUR OWN INVENTION

1. What problem are you trying to solve with your invention? _____

2. Describe your invention: _____

3. Draw a picture of your invention.

4. What materials will you need to create your invention? What technology might be helpful?

5. Who will buy or use your invention? How are you going to market your invention?

6. What is the name of your invention? _____
