

Inventions

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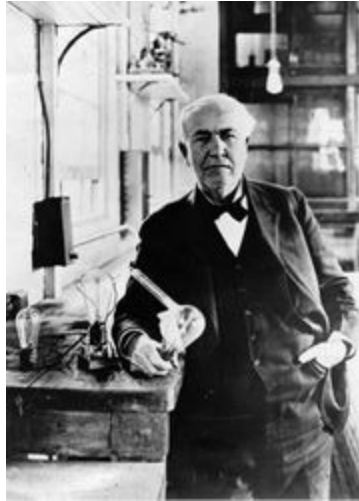
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Edison Tried and Tried Again

by ReadWorks



Thomas Edison was a scientist. He was born in 1847. He invented many things. One was a light bulb that could stay lit for hours.

Edison worked very hard. He tried many times to get the light bulb right. Some people say it took 1,000 tries. Edison was asked how he felt about that. He was happy. He said he knew 999 things that do not work. Edison did not give up.

Staying Dry in the Snow

by ReadWorks



KK Gregory liked to play in the snow. But KK didn't like when snow went up her sleeve. It made her feel wet and too cold to play.

Even though she was only ten years old, KK decided to do something about this problem.

She made coverings that fit over her upper hands and wrists. Her wrists stayed dry! She called her idea Wristies.

She made them in different sizes and colors. Soon, she was selling Wristies to other people.

Today, KK's invention is helping a lot of people stay dry in the snow.

What Is E-mail?

by Rachelle Kreisman



My grandma sent me an e-mail message. When did I receive it? Right away! E-mail is electronic mail. It is much faster than sending a letter. E-mail usually arrives on a computer minutes after it is sent.

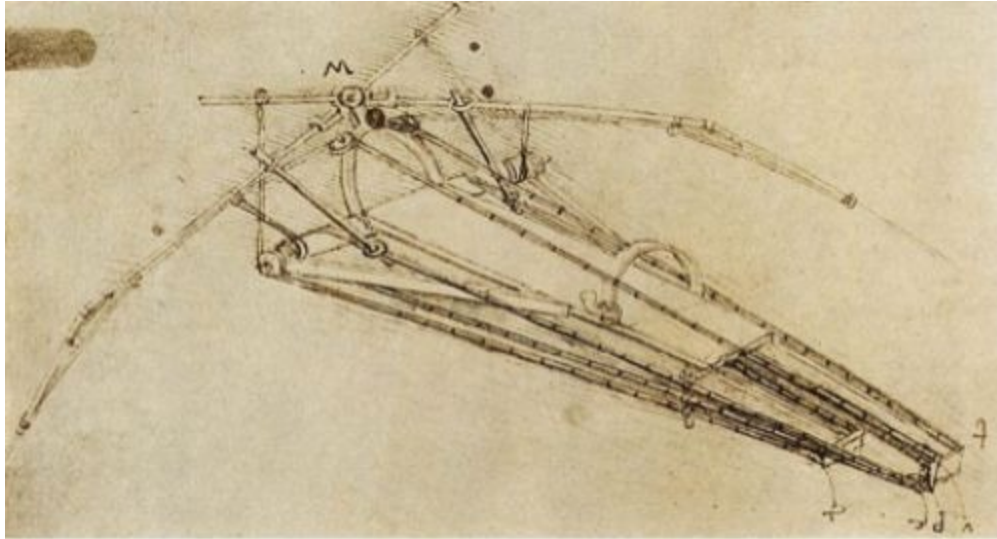
Many people think that a man named Ray Tomlinson invented e-mail. Ray wanted to solve a problem at his office. Some people did

not answer their phone calls. Ray came up with a way to send messages from computer to computer.

Ray sent the first e-mail in 1971. It was most likely "QWERTYUIOP." What does that mean? Nothing! It was just a test message. Now everyone can send and receive e-mails. Thanks, Ray!

The Flying Machine

by ReadWorks



Leonardo da Vinci's drawing of a flying machine

Long ago, a man named Leonardo da Vinci lived. He wanted to build a flying machine. He watched birds fly. He watched bats fly. He watched kites fly.

Then he built his flying machine. He could not make it fly. He tried many different ideas. But those ideas did not work.

Humans would not fly for 400 more years. Two brothers in the United States made a flying machine. That machine worked. It was an airplane!

The Lightning Rod

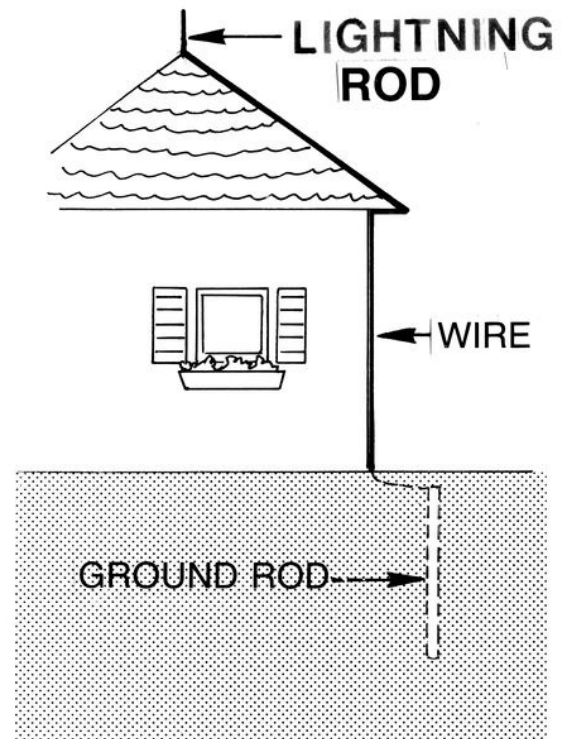
by Rachelle Kreisman

Ben Franklin lived long ago. He solved problems. One big problem was that lightning hit houses. Sometimes lightning set houses on fire. Why? Lightning is electricity. It is very hot.

Ben wanted to protect houses. He knew lightning hits tall objects. He invented a metal rod to go on top of buildings. The rod had a wire in it. The wire went to the ground.

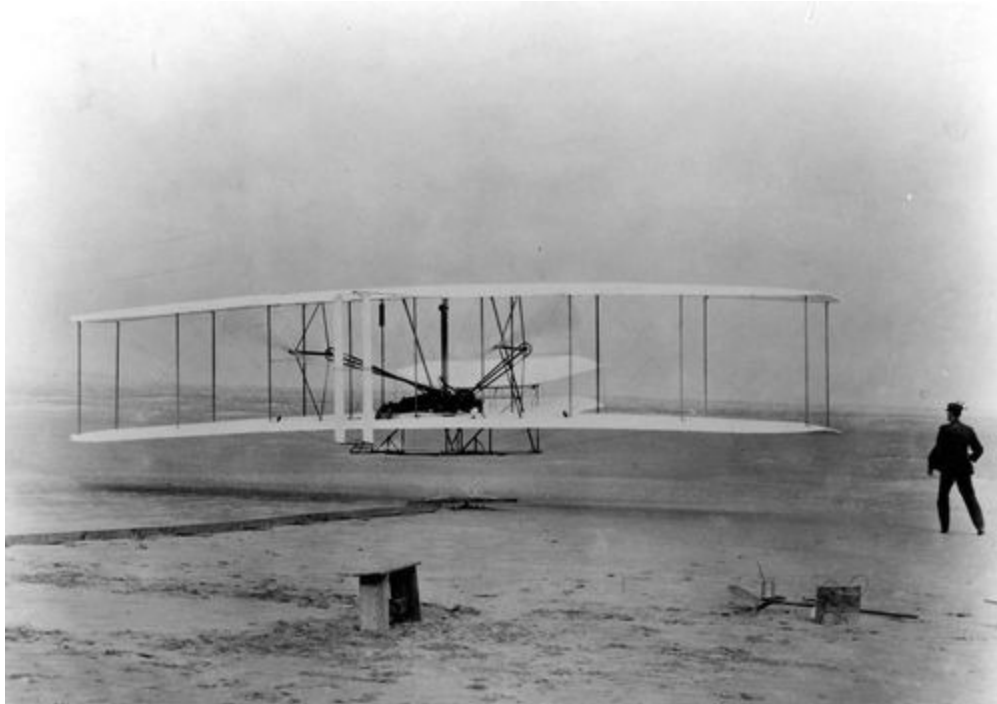
Ben hoped lightning would hit the rod instead of the house. The electricity would travel down the wire to the ground.

His idea worked. Today, many houses are protected from lightning thanks to Ben's invention.



The Flying Toy

by Kate Paixão



Wilbur and Orville Wright were brothers. They lived a long time ago. One day, their father brought home a helicopter toy.

The helicopter toy was made with rubber bands, cork, and other things. When Wilbur and Orville wound the toy up, it flew in the air. However, the toy was not very strong. Soon, it broke.

Wilbur and Orville studied their broken toy. Then the boys built a new one. It worked! Years later, the brothers built another flying machine. It was big enough for people to ride in. Their machine was one of the first airplanes.