

Inventions

Running Time: 26 Minutes

Nifty questions in this episode:

- What is inventing?
- Everything we use comes from what process?
- Can inventions occur when we take an already existing invention and make it better?

Awesome answers:

- A process of experimenting.
- Inventing!
- Yes! Most inventions are not completely new ideas.

Experiments shown on the video:

THE BUBBLE MACHINE

Objective: To invent a device that will make bubbles.

- Lay a milk carton on its side and cut and remove the side facing up.
- Push an 8-inch piece of wire hanger lengthwise through a cork until cork is in the middle of wire. Bend the piece of wire into a "Z" or "crank" shape.
- Take four pipe cleaners and make a "loop" out of each one.
- Attach the pipe cleaners to the cork (one on each side in waterwheel fashion). Attach a paper clip using a brass brad pushed through the carton near the top of the cut sides of the milk carton to act as a holder for your cork wire.
- Place cork wire across wire holder and fill milk carton with water. Add dish detergent (10:1 mix) to water in carton. Turn crank and blow on loops, making bubbles. If it doesn't work, keep experimenting!

More interesting stuff to do:

A BETTER MOUSE TRAP


Objective: To plan and design new products.

- Collect an assortment of items from various rooms in your house (ask a family member to help).
- Try to think of a way to improve each product so that its function better meets your needs.

NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION

Objective: To demonstrate the steps involved in developing a useful product.

- Have a friend collect ten random items and give them to you in a box.
- Invent a useful product using only those items. Follow guidelines for inventing: purpose, task involved, outcomes, usefulness, and product testing.

 closed-captioned



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