

# TPE Kids page

## Wacky inventions

### Back to the drawing board

Have you ever had an idea for an invention that would make life easier? Maybe someone could build a flying bus to help you get home from school faster, or design a robot to fetch snacks from the kitchen during your favorite television program.

Inventors are always coming up with ideas for new things. They also think up ways to improve many of the items we already have. Sometimes the ideas are good. Other times they're not so hot.

The book *Inventions No One Mentions* (by Chip Lovitt) describes creations that didn't quite catch on. Take the 1887 hot air foot warmer, for instance. Designed to relieve cold feet, it had a set of plastic tubes that ran the length of the user's body, from the mouth to the feet. These were worn under clothing. If the feet were cold, all a person had to do was blow into the tubes to deliver warm air to the toes. Of course, the unlucky user who inhaled got a face full of stinky foot air.



Another 1800s invention that flopped was the gum-saving locket. A lady could stash her juicy wad of already chewed gum in the stylish piece of jewelry and save it for another time. It was like an early form of recycling. But perhaps the inventor should have chewed on the idea a little longer. As it turned out, consumers just couldn't stomach it.

Thankfully, a lot of inventions have turned out better than these examples. Where would we be without Thomas Edison's electric light? Or Alexander Graham Bell's telephone? Can you think of other inventions that make our lives easier?

God is the One who gives us the ability to think, invent and create. In fact, He is the ultimate Creator. Consider the trees and mountains, rivers and stars, lions and whales. He made all those things. He even made you. And unlike human inventors, God doesn't make mistakes. He designed you with a perfect purpose and plan.

Perhaps someday you'll create something to help others. Or maybe you will be a missionary, spreading the gospel in places where electric lights don't even exist. Whatever gifts God has given you, He will show you how to use them to accomplish great things for Him.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17, NIV).

### Did you know?

The Slinky was a failed invention at first. Created in 1945 as a part for ship instruments, the coiled spring didn't work as hoped. But the inventor's wife saved it from the scrap heap when she came up with the idea of turning it into a toy.



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### JUST FOR laughs

I heard the guy who invented toothpaste only had one tooth.

That's amazing. Are you sure it's true?

It must be. Otherwise, he would have called it toothpaste.



### Try this!

Think of an invention that would make your life easier. Draw it in the box. You could also use clay, pipe cleaners or other materials to make a 3-D model.