

20th Century Inventions

The 20th century witnessed a flood of inventions designed to make life easier for workers. Many of these inventions were also used toward war efforts.

Assignment

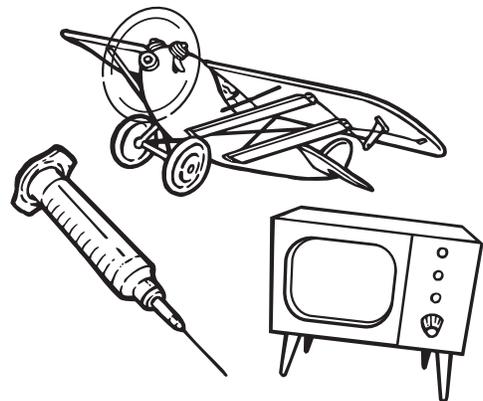
Match the inventions in the column on the right with the inventor, date, and description listed in the left-hand column. Use an encyclopedia or the Internet to help you if needed.

Inventors

- _____ 1. Ernst Ruska—1932, a machine to see the smallest things
- _____ 2. Clarence Birdseye and Charles Seabrook—1925, food preservation
- _____ 3. Godfrey Hounsfield and Allan Cormack—1972, more detail about the human body
- _____ 4. Jonas Salk—1954, a cure for a crippling disease
- _____ 5. Wallace Carothers—1935, used in parachutes, jackets, and women’s stockings
- _____ 6. Alexander Fleming—1928, kills infections
- _____ 7. Frank Whittle—1930, a revolutionary improvement in the airplane
- _____ 8. Igor Sikorsky—1939, aircraft that takes off and lands vertically
- _____ 9. Orville and Wilbur Wright—1903, getting off the ground
- _____ 10. John Eckert, John Manchly, and John Atanasoff—1946, it counts faster than a person
- _____ 11. Robert Watson-Watt—1935, it can track an airplane
- _____ 12. Philo Farnsworth—1928, it brings the world and entertainment to people’s homes

Inventions

- a. airplane
- b. CAT scan
- c. electronic digital computer
- d. electronic microscope
- e. frozen food
- f. helicopter
- g. jet engine
- h. nylon
- i. penicillin
- j. polio vaccine
- k. radar
- l. television



Extension

Choose one of the following activities.

- Make a timeline showing each of the above inventions. Include pictures of the inventions.
- Create a PowerPoint presentation about some of the major 20th century inventions.