

Great British Inventions

Today, let's talk about great British inventions. There are many. We will look at a few of them.

The jet engine was invented by a chap called Frank Whittle from Coventry. He was a fighter pilot. Whittle realised that piston powered flight was old technology. He designed the gas turbine 'turbo-jet' in 1930. Thwarted by the military it wasn't until 1941 that his jet idea took off in the form of a Gloster E28/39 for a 17 minute flight.

Tin cans used for baked beans and vegetables were invented by a man called Peter Durand. He copied the preserved food in a glass jar idea that Frenchman Nicholas Appert had created, doing it this time with a tin can. The first commercial canning factory was opened in England in 1813.

The first public toilets in Britain were installed at the Great Exhibition in London in 1851 at London's Crystal Palace. A Josiah George Jennings, a plumber from Hampshire, came up with the idea that brought relief for many. Originally, they were referred to as "Monkey Closets". The term "to spend a penny" was coined here, as it cost a penny to use them. It was a good deal, as you got a clean seat, a comb and a shoe shine.

Christmas crackers were invented in 1847 by Londoner Tom Smith. He came up with the idea when sweet sales dried up. Smith invented a twist of paper with sweets and love messages inside. One evening he heard a crackle by the fire and realised he could use the idea in his crackers. This needed a larger wrapper. Later on to counter his rivals Tom's son introduced paper hats and jokes. What a cracking idea that was!

Meanwhile mechanic Edwin Beard Budding came up with the idea of a grass cutter. Having repaired machinery in cotton mills in the Stroud valleys he realised a similar such device could cut grass. The first mower was 19 inches wide. Made of iron it was designed to cut lawns in big gardens and sportsgrounds.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three famous inventions. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What is a 'Christmas cracker'?
- 2) What is a 'monkey closet'?
- 3) What is a 'cotton mill'?
- 4) Who was Edwin Beard Budding?
- 5) What does 'rival' mean?

Student B questions

- 1) Who came from Coventry?
- 2) What is a jet?
- 3) Name the Frenchman.
- 4) What happened in 1851?
- 5) What does 'to spend a penny' really mean?

Great British Inventions – 15th January 2016

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words about the '**Great British Inventions**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs think of three inventions that are less than 10 years old. Then add three that were invented in the last 50 years. Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) _____ (1) _____
- 2) _____ (2) _____
- 3) _____ (3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings to the class.

SPEAKING - WRITING

In pairs – Think of three inventions that were invented in your country or region. Write down your thoughts. Discuss together.

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

20 Great British Inventions
Google it if necessary!

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you ever invented anything?
- 3) Who was the greatest inventor?
- 4) What did your greatest inventor invent?
- 5) What type of machine do you use to cut the grass? Is it electric or what?
- 6) When did you last pull a Christmas cracker?
- 7) When you go to the toilet what do you tell people e.g. 'I am going to spend a penny' or what?
- 8) What was the last thing you ate from a tin can?
- 9) How many tin openers do you own?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Great British Inventions*.

- 1) A famous British inventor.
- 2) A British scientist.
- 3) A historian.
- 4) A journalist.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - Student A is a reporter. Student B is an inventor of whacky/crazy things! Student A is talking to Student B - 3 mins.

SPEAKING - PRESENTATION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Prepare a 3-5 minute presentation on
Great British Inventions
Allow prep time!
Google it if necessary!

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Do you have many public toilets in your city?
- 3) When was the last time you flew by jet?
- 4) When was the last time you cut the grass?
- 5) Can you think of a Christmas cracker joke?
- 6) Do you wear silly hats at Christmas?
- 7) How much does it cost to spend a penny in your country?
- 8) What glass bottled food do you eat?
- 9) When you visit a public toilet is there a clean seat, a comb and a shoe shine service?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Great British Inventions

Today, let's talk about great British (1)__. There are many. We will look at a few of them.

The jet engine was invented by a (2)__ called Frank Whittle from Coventry. He was a fighter (3)__. Whittle realised that (4)__ powered flight was old technology. He designed the gas turbine 'turbo-jet' in 1930. Thwarted by the military it wasn't until 1941 that his (5)__ idea took off in the form of a Gloster E28/39 for a 17 minute (6)__.

Tin cans used for baked beans and vegetables were invented by a man called Peter Durand. He copied the preserved food in a glass jar idea that Frenchman Nicholas Appert had created, doing it this time with a tin can. The first (7)__ canning (8)__ was opened in England in 1813.

factory / jet / inventions / commercial / flight / pilot / piston / chap

The first public (1)__ in Britain were installed at the Great Exhibition in London in 1851 at London's Crystal Palace. A Josiah George Jennings, a plumber from Hampshire, came up with the idea that brought (2)__ for many. Originally, they were referred to as "Monkey Closets". The term "to spend a (3)_" was coined here, as it cost a penny to use them. It was a good deal, as you got a clean seat, a comb and a shoe shine.

Christmas crackers were invented in 1847 by Londoner Tom Smith. He came up with the idea when sweet sales dried up. Smith invented a twist of paper with sweets and love messages inside. One evening he heard a crackle by the fire and realised he could use the idea in his crackers. This needed a larger (4)__. Later on to (5)__ his (6)__ Tom's son introduced paper hats and (7)__. What a cracking idea that was!

Meanwhile (8)__ Edwin Beard Budding came up with the idea of a grass cutter.

wrapper / rivals / penny / counter / relief / toilets / mechanic / jokes

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Great British Inventions

Today, let's talk about great British inventions. There are many. (1)__ will look at a few (2)__ them.

The jet engine was invented by a chap called Frank Whittle from Coventry. (3)__ was a fighter pilot. Whittle realised that piston powered flight was old technology. He designed the gas turbine 'turbo-jet' in 1930. Thwarted (4)__ the military it wasn't until 1941 that (5)__ jet idea took off in the form of a Gloster E28/39 for a 17 minute flight.

Tin cans used (6)__ baked beans and vegetables were invented by a man called Peter Durand. He copied the preserved food in (7)__ glass jar idea that Frenchman Nicholas Appert had created, doing it this time with a tin can. The first commercial canning factory was opened (8)__ England in 1813.

of / we / in / a / by / he / for / his

The first public toilets in Britain were installed at the Great Exhibition in London in 1851 at London's Crystal Palace. A Josiah George Jennings, a plumber from Hampshire, came up (1)__ the idea (2)__ brought relief for (3)__. Originally, they were referred to as "Monkey Closets". The term "to spend a penny" was coined here, as it cost a penny to use (4)__. It was a good deal, as you got a clean seat, a comb and a shoe shine.

Christmas crackers were invented in 1847 by Londoner Tom Smith. He came up with the idea when sweet sales dried up. Smith invented a twist of paper with sweets and love messages inside. One evening he heard a crackle by the fire and realised he (5)__ use the idea in his crackers. (6)__ needed a larger wrapper. Later on to counter his rivals Tom's son introduced paper hats and jokes. (7)__ a cracking idea that was!

(8)__ mechanic Edwin Beard Budding came up with the idea of a grass cutter.

what / meanwhile / that / could / them / many / with / this



GAP FILL: LISTENING

WRITING/SPELLING

Great British Inventions

Today, let's talk about great _____. There are many. We will look at a few of them. The jet engine was invented by a chap called Frank Whittle from Coventry. He was a fighter pilot. Whittle realised that piston powered flight was old technology. He designed the gas turbine 'turbo-jet' in 1930. _____ military it wasn't until 1941 that his jet idea took off in the form of a Gloster E28/39 for a 17 minute flight. Tin cans used for baked _____ were invented by a man called Peter Durand. He copied the preserved food in a glass jar idea that Frenchman Nicholas Appert had created, doing it this time with a tin can. The first _____ factory was opened in England in 1813.

The first public toilets in Britain were installed at the Great Exhibition in London in 1851 at London's Crystal Palace. A Josiah George Jennings, a plumber from Hampshire, came up with the idea that brought relief for many. Originally, they were referred to as "_____". The term "_____ " was coined here, as it cost a penny to use them. It was a good deal, as you got a clean seat, a comb and a shoe shine.

_____ were invented in 1847 by Londoner Tom Smith. He came up with the idea when sweet sales dried up. Smith invented a twist of paper with sweets and love messages inside. One evening he heard a crackle by the fire and realised _____ in his crackers. This needed a larger wrapper. Later on to counter his rivals Tom's son introduced paper hats and jokes. What a cracking idea that was! _____ Edwin Beard Budding came up with the idea of a grass cutter. Having repaired machinery in cotton mills in the Stroud valleys he realised a similar such device could cut grass. The first mower was 19 inches wide. Made of iron it was designed to cut lawns in big _____.

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WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs/As a class*, list 20 things you know about: 20 great inventors. *One-two minutes. Talk about each of them.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The jet ___ _____
- 2) The lawnmower _____
- 3) The tin can _____

3) Write down 50 words about: *Great British Inventors.* Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***Great British Inventors.*** Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) engine
- 2) factory
- 3) jet
- 4) chap
- 5) mower
- 6) technology
- 7) thwarted
- 8) military
- 9) turbine
- 10) commercial

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) toilets
- 12) penny
- 13) closets
- 14) brought
- 15) originally
- 16) twist
- 17) crackle
- 18) rivals
- 19) mechanic
- 20) similar

Great British Inventions – *15th January 2016*