

# Project - Designing an Invention

## **Corresponding State Standards:**

**GLE 0007.T/E.2** Apply engineering design and creative thinking to solve practical problems.

**0007.T/E.1** Explain how simple tools are used to extend the senses, make life easier, and solve everyday problems.

**0007.T/E.2** Invent designs for simple products

**0007.T/E.3** Use tools to measure materials and construct simple products.

**GLE 0101.2.2** Develop critical speaking skills essential for effective communication.

Ask students: “What toy was invented by a baker who liked to throw around empty pie tins?” (frisbee) and “What tasty treat was invented by an eleven-year-old boy who left his soda pop and water concoction on the back porch one winter?” (popsicle).

Tell students they are going to design and create a new invention. They will need to think of something that would be helpful to themselves and others. Example – Hairbrush – helps people untangle hair.

Have students either as a class or in small groups brainstorm for ideas. For those that have trouble thinking of an invention, prompt them to think of a hobby or something they enjoy doing. What would make this activity easier or more fun? Students could ask parents to help them come up with an idea.

Once students have an idea, ask them to draw a design of what they want to create. Then have a student share the designs with the class. Have the rest of the class offer ideas for how to create this product. What materials and tools will you need to build your invention? How will this invention be helpful to others? Ask parents to send in supplies that you think your students might want.

Have a construction day where students build inventions in small groups. Having an aide or parent volunteers for this day would be helpful. Those who are not building could be doing a four square paper on their invention. They could include in the four squares what was created, how it was built, who will use it, what is it used for, and how you think other people will feel about the invention.

Pick another day for students to demo and explain their inventions and share their four square writing.

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