

8.2 Great inventions

Aim: Create a fact sheet about a great invention and give a group presentation

Preparation: You will need to supply paper, colored markers, scissors, and tape or glue. Make one copy of Worksheets 8.2 for every S.

Comment: Use at the end of Unit 8, Lesson B.

Think and Plan (10 minutes)

- Ss work in groups of four. Give each group four handouts, paper, markers, and access to scissors and tape or glue.
- Have Ss read the project objective and the first question under *Think*. Elicit Ss' responses. Then have Ss read the example invention: the flex-straw. Elicit responses to the second question.
- Go over the questions under *Plan*. Then have groups brainstorm ideas and try to guess any information they're not sure about. Ss then discuss what they need for the fact sheet and presentation. Each group member chooses an area to research outside of class.

Put together and Present (30 minutes)

- At the next class, Ss bring in their research and any images for their fact sheets and presentation. Have groups share their research and assemble their fact sheets. Then have groups practice giving their presentations. Set an appropriate time limit.
- Have groups show their fact sheets to the class and give their presentations. Stop for questions after each presentation.
- Finally, ask the class to vote on which group had the most interesting fact sheet and presentation. Discuss what made it effective. Then discuss other things Ss know about the inventions. If possible, display the fact sheets around the classroom or school.

Objective

Create a fact sheet about an invention and present the information to others.

Think

What information would you expect to find on a fact sheet about an invention? Read the fact sheet below. Would you like to know anything else about the flexible straw and its development?

The Flexible Straw

What's the invention? The flexible straw, or bendy straw, is a drinking straw made from paper or plastic that bends near the top, making it easy to drink a beverage from any position.

Who's the inventor? Joseph Friedman (1900–1982) was an independent American inventor who held various full-time jobs while developing ideas in his spare time. His eight other patented inventions include a lighted pencil and a portable movie screen.

How did the inventor get the idea?

Friedman was watching his two-year-old daughter use a conventional straw to drink a milkshake when the idea hit him. He put a screw inside a straight

paper straw and wrapped string around it to copy the ridges from the screw to the paper. When he untied the string and removed the screw, the straw bent over the edge of the glass, kept its new shape, and allowed his daughter to drink her shake more easily.

How and where is the invention used?

Flexible straws were first sold to hospitals before being marketed for home use. Soon they became popular around the world, with current annual sales of over 500 million straws.



Plan

1. In groups, choose one of the following inventions or another one you know about. Then brainstorm ideas about the kinds of information you'll need to create your fact sheet.
 - airplane
 - blue jeans
 - cell phone
 - chewing gum
 - disposable diaper
 - electric guitar
 - potato chips
2. Answer as many of the questions as you can as a group. Then assign each member of the group an area to research and find the information you need.
 - What's the invention?
 - Who's the inventor?
 - How did the inventor get the idea?
 - How and where is the invention used?
3. Do research. Make copies of any necessary information and images.

Put together

1. Share your information, photos, and other materials with your group. Then put them together to create an attractive and well-organized fact sheet.
2. Practice giving a group presentation with each member presenting the part he or she has researched.

Present

1. Take turns presenting your fact sheet to the class. Ask and answer questions.
2. Which group has the most interesting fact sheet?
3. What other things do you know about the inventions presented?