

# Nonsense inventions

## Enrichment areas

- Science
- Creativity

## Resources

Writing materials.

## Further reading and websites

A history of radio can be found at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/2rxopc>

*Fifty Great Years (1897-1947) in the North West: Through the Eyes of the 'Evening Chronicle'*, Cliff Hayes (Ed), Memories, 1995 (ISBN 978-1899181315)

A full history of the development of local radio can be found at:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC\\_Regional\\_Programme](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC_Regional_Programme)

## Description

Bringing together different ideas and research can have effective results. Guglielmo Marconi's experimental radio station 2MT brought together the work of many scientists and engineers. Marconi had experimented in Italy before coming to England. It was at Writtle in Essex in 1920 that all of his work and the application of the work of others resulted in a successful radio broadcast in the UK.

The benefits of the new invention had been suggested to both the Post Office and the armed forces. Support for an invention is important in getting it funded, developed, used and accepted.

What nonsense inventions can your pupils come up with? Ask them to think of modern machines used in our daily lives and to list them using Table 1, provided in the Pupil's Notes. When they have generated a list of 15, ask them to combine them with a further 15 to produce a set of nonsense inventions. They should give each invention a name, describe it and explain what it does. Does it have any problems that still need sorting out? Is it useful? Is it expensive to produce? Is it reliable and, of course, is it safe?

If time and circumstances are such that a prepared list would be preferable then Table 2, provided in the Pupil's Notes, could be used.

Your pupils should present their ideas to the others in the group. They could then choose the most ridiculous idea and write a nonsense poem to celebrate the invention.

## Going further

After developing a full list and explanation of the workings, applications and benefits of nonsense inventions it would seem a logical extension to write, prepare and record a programme about the inventions to be broadcast on the radio. When the programme has been produced as a pilot, approach your local radio station to arrange for it to be broadcast. The world wants to know about nonsense inventions.

## Pupil's Notes

### Nonsense inventions

Bringing together different ideas and research can have effective results. Guglielmo Marconi's experimental radio station 2MT brought together the work of many scientists and engineers. Marconi had experimented in Italy before coming to England. It was at Writtle in Essex in 1920 that all of his work and the application of the work of others resulted in a successful radio broadcast in the UK.

The benefits of the new invention had been suggested to both the Post Office and the armed forces. Support for an invention is important in getting it funded, developed, used and accepted.

What nonsense inventions can you come up with? Think of modern machines used in our daily lives and list them using the table provided below. When you have generated a list of 15 inventions combine them with another 15 to produce a set of new nonsense inventions. Give each invention a name and explain what it does.

Choose one particularly nonsensical invention and write down a full description of how it works. Consider the following points in your description.

- What does the nonsense invention do?
- What does it look like?
- Does it have any problems that still need sorting out?
- Is it useful?
- Is it expensive?
- Is it reliable?
- Is it safe?

Present your ideas to the others in the group. Choose the most ridiculous idea and write a nonsense poem to celebrate the invention.

**70****Pupil's Notes**

Nonsense inventions: Table 1

Invention		Plus!		New nonsense invention
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	

Nonsense inventions: Table 2

Invention		Plus!		New nonsense invention
Spin-dryer	+	Trampoline	=	Wind-spinners*
Radio	+		=	
Vacuum cleaner	+		=	
Television	+		=	
Computer	+		=	
MP3 player	+		=	
Printer	+		=	
Digital camera	+		=	
Spectacles	+		=	
Hat	+		=	
Bicycle	+		=	
Space shuttle	+		=	
Light bulb	+		=	
The internet	+		=	
Wellington boots	+		=	

\* A wind spinner is a giant air-blower, which can keep a person floating in a powerful jet of air. It is perfect for drying oneself after a shower. Alternatively, a wind spinner is a machine that produces a strong blast of warm air to support trainee trampoliners as they practise difficult manoeuvres. They bounce up and are supported by the jet of air while they slowly twist and turn before gently falling to the trampoline to bounce up again.

## Primary Enrichment Activities for Key Stages 1 & 2

### RISK-FREE Order Form

If you liked this sample from Primary Enrichment Activities for Key Stages 1 & 2, you can order your risk-free copy today. Simply complete the form below and send it to:

Optimus Education, FREEPOST RLYT- KTSR-XJKC, 33-41 Dallington Street, London EC1V 0BB  
or fax it to 0845 450 6410

Please send me [  ] copies of Primary Enrichment Activities for Key Stages 1 & 2 at £69.00  
+ £6.50 (postage & packing) each.

We will send you your book(s) and an invoice; if you decide not to keep the book(s) simply return it in a resaleable condition within 21 days, with the invoice, and you will owe nothing.

#### Delivery details:

Name:

Email:

Job title:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel:

Fax:

#### Payment details:

[  ] Please invoice my school/organisation, order number (if applicable)

[  ] Cheque enclosed, payable to Optimus Education

Sourcecode: 08Ewebresource