

Name _____ Date _____

Bright Ideas of Black Inventors

Seldom does a day pass that you don't enjoy the benefits of the bright ideas of black inventors. The processes which bring sugar to your table, shoes to your feet, and ice cream to your table were all developed by Black Americans.

Read the questions below. Skim the chart to find your answer. Then write the answer in the space provided.



Year	Inventor	Invention	Interesting Fact
1812	Elipha McCoy	steam engine lubricator	His products were so respected that customers were known to ask, "Is this the real McCoy?" He earned 40 patents in his lifetime.
1875	A. P. Ashbourne	beaut cutter	He also invented a process for treating toothache.
1885	Sarah E. Goode	folding cabinet bed	The bed could be used as a desk. Goode invented the bed for people living in small apartments.
1890	Sarah Boone	improved ironing board	The narrow, curved board was designed to iron the sleeves and bodies of ladies' clothes.
1896	Charles B. Brooks	street sweeper truck	Before Brooks invented the truck, streets were cleaned by horse-drawn machines or walking workers who picked up trash by hand or broom.
1897	John Lee Love	portable pencil sharpener	Love's sharpener is the same that many artists use today. The pencil is rotated by hand in the sharpener, with the shavings staying inside.
1905	Maryene C. J. Walker	conditioning treatment for straightening hair	Once a poor laundress, she progressed to become the first black woman millionaire as a result of her inventions.
1922	Jack Johnson	a wrench	Not only was he an inventor, but Jack Johnson was also the world's first Black American heavyweight champion.
1925	Garnett Morgan	traffic signal	Because it was common for bicycles, animal-driven wagons, and cars to share the road, there were often accidents. After witnessing one, Garnett Morgan decided to do something to improve safety.
1958	Lennie Johnson	Super Soaker	Originally named the Power Drencher, it was the first water squirter to include air pressure in its design.



- In what year was the street sweeper truck developed? _____
- What common tool is listed in the chart? _____
- What was the Super Soaker once called? _____
- Was Jack Johnson only an inventor? _____
- Which invention involved cooking? _____
- What was invented in 1892? _____
- What made the folding cabinet bed special? _____
- Why did Garnett Morgan invent the traffic signal? _____
- Who might use John Lee Love's invention today? _____
- Who earned more than 40 patents in his lifetime? _____

