

Nature Inventions

To make it like a game show, try drawing this grid on a white board or large piece of paper and let the child/children choose what category and how much they want to earn.

You can erase or color in the used squares as they go.

Make sure they are keeping track of their score by adding their points as they go!

Great Inventors	Inventions from Nature	Nature Made it First	Inspired by Nature
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Category Descriptions

Inspired by Nature: The inventor saw something in nature that sparked the idea for the product.

Nature Did It First: Something found in nature that mirrors an invention, but did not spark the idea for the invention. Like a coincidence that they both exist.

Great Inventors: Great inventors

Inventions From Nature: Inventions that are produced from a natural product.

Inventions From Nature

(100) This product has been re-invented by many different people throughout history. To create this ancient cleaner, you must have a chemical reaction between processed animal fat and lye. (soap)

(200) This product was invented in China around 105 A.D. from pulped cellulose fibers of wood and cotton. Today it is now used in every culture. (paper)

(300) This product was more discovered than invented. It was only by accident that Charles Goodyear achieved his goal of creating a usable more durable version of this natural substance produced by trees. (rubber)

(400) This product was created by the compression and heating of ancient dead organisms. It has been used by people for more than four thousand years for heat, light, and the manufacturing of plastic. Today, scientists are worried about depleting this vital natural resource. (petroleum/oil)

(500) Developed by Australian Howard Walter Florey, this medicine used to treat bacterial infections is naturally produced in mold. (Penicillin)

Great Inventors

(100) One of the founding fathers of the U.S., this scientist was the inventor of the bifocal lens in the early 1760's. However, he was best known for his discoveries with electricity.

(Ben Franklin)

(200) This American inventor holds 1,093 U.S. patents. He was one of many to work with the idea of the light bulb, and was the first to invent an incandescent bulb that could be mass produced.

(Thomas Edison)

(300) This Scottish scientist was called "the father of the deaf". His research in hearing and speech lead him to the invention of the telephone in 1876.

(Alexander Graham Bell)

(400) This man was the father of the modern assembly line and revolutionized motorized transportation in the U.S.

(Henry Ford)

(500) Born Löb Strauss, this German American created the first company to manufacture blue jeans.

(Levi Strauss)

Nature made it first

(100) Frogs, seals, fish, and ducks have this adaptation. Ben Franklin first designed these for humans to use under water. (swim fins)

(200) People have invented a way to keep their most valuable asset safe when participating in dangerous activities such as football and bike riding. But nature beat us to it. Many animals such as the woodpecker and the ram have this invention built right in. (helmet)

(300) The first manufactured glass was in Mesopotamia and Egypt about 3500 BC. But the earth had been making glass long before people. These two substances are all that is needed. (sand and fire/heat)

(400) This product was first made from gourds and used for medicinal purposes. In 1882 the design was altered to resemble that of the octopus. (suction cups)

(500) The synthetic stone, cubic zirconia, was first commercially produced in 1976 because of its low cost, durability, and close resemblance to this natural treasure. (diamonds)

Inspired by nature

(100) *It has been a constant struggle for man to walk through deep snow. Early natives looked to this large animal when inventing the first snow shoe. (polar bear)

(200) *In 1948 George De Mestral was inspired to create Velcro while cleaning off his pants and dog after a hike through the woods. It took almost 10 years to duplicate this natural clinger. (burr)

(300) *In 1935, Paul Sperry, inventor of the Sperry Topsiders, wanted to develop a shoe that would prevent slipping on the wet deck of a boat. He was given inspiration by this man's best friend. (dog)

(400) *This invention reshaped the West. Inspired by a not so friendly flora three men devised a way to help ranchers contain their livestock by imitating the Osage orange tree with metal. (barbed wire)

(500) *Ruth Foster was inspired by dog behaviors when co-inventing the Gentle Leader dog collar. This behavior is the method in which a mother dog moves her young from place to place. (gripping/biting back of neck)

* All pictures that accompanied the questions to aid in understanding were found on the internet. Questions with stars had visual aids.