



**At the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:**

- \* identify some reasons that motivate people to invent
- \* explain how a particular product you use have a history of invention & improvement
- \* appreciate the role you & your family as consumers have played in this history



**Read the Article:**

Often we **take for granted** the many household items we use everyday. It is difficult to imagine there was a time in the past when these **inventions** did not exist. Actually, several of the most common inventions have been with us for quite some time. Inventions like the toothbrush, contact lenses, and credit cards came into use long ago.

The first toothbrush was introduced in China in the late 1400s but it was more or less 300 years before this simple device came into common use in Europe. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a variety of paste and powder cleaners were available throughout Europe as dental care become more **widespread**. The first tube of toothpaste **hit the market** in Great Britain in 1891.

There is evidence to show that the first contact lenses were actually suggested by an astronomer, Sir John Herschel, in 1827. However, Sir Herschel was never able to create a working model of his idea.

It was not until 1887 that a Swiss doctor from Zurich, Dr. Eugen Frick, came up with a workable process for manufacturing **precision** lenses.

Credit cards have also been available for many years. They have been in use in the United States since the 1920s. Originally, these cards were used only to buy gasoline in the quickly growing automobile service industry.

While it may be true that some of the greatest inventions and discoveries in history came about by chance, the majority of inventions which simplify our lives came about through careful research and patient study. Of course, it still holds true that even with all the comforts of modern technology, inventors continue to search for ways of helping all of us to get out of doing those necessary and **tedious** tasks which we still face. As the old saying goes, "Necessity is the mother of invention."



### Let's Talk:

1. Where was the first toothbrush used?
2. How long have people been using contact lenses?
3. When did credit cards first come into use?



### Express Yourself:

1. Do you have a car? How useful is it to you?
2. What do you think are the advantages of modern technology?  
Can you think of any disadvantages?
3. Can you imagine life without electricity? The Internet?
4. Is there anything you wish wasn't invented at all?
5. What is the most useful piece of technology that you own?
6. If you were to invent something, what would it be? Why?
7. What do you think motivates scientist or inventors to create things? Do you think they're driven by passion to help other people or just selfish reasons?
8. Which do you think the government should concentrate more efforts on : improving agricultural technology, medical research or robotics?