



# Inventors

Designing and Creating  
Tomorrow's World

By Ruth Owen



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## Designing and Creating Tomorrow's World

by Ruth Owen

Ruby Tuesday Books

Published in 2017 by Ruby Tuesday Books Ltd.

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Editor: Mark J. Sachner

Designer: Emma Randall

Production: John Lingham

Photo Credits:

Alamy: 5 (bottom left), 5 (bottom right), 22; FLPA: 12; Getty Images: 7 (bottom), 9 (top), 17 (top), 24–25, 27 (top); Alex Goad (Reef Design Lab): Cover (center bottom), 20–21; The Ocean Cleanup: 10, 13 (center), 13 (bottom), 16, 17 (bottom); Public Domain: 9 (bottom), 11, 23, 26; Ruby Tuesday Books: 13 (top), 14, 27 (bottom); Shutterstock: Cover, 4, 5 (top), 6, 7 (top), 8, 10 (right), 18–19, 28–29, 30; Erwin Zwart (The Ocean Cleanup): 15.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016907603

ISBN 978-1-910549-92-6

Printed and published in the United States of America

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# Inventing Our World

There's one thing that humans are very, very good at—inventing!

Almost everything around you was once someone's invention. Without an ancient inventor who discovered that crushed plant fibers could be mixed with water, squeezed flat, and dried, we wouldn't have paper. And without Johannes Gutenberg, who invented the printing press in the 1440s, paper couldn't be printed and turned into books, like the one you're holding. (By the way, if you're reading an ebook, then you have a whole other group of inventors to thank.)

From the first stone tools, invented by our early ancestors, to smartphones and robots, people have been dreaming, designing, making, and using inventions for millions of years.

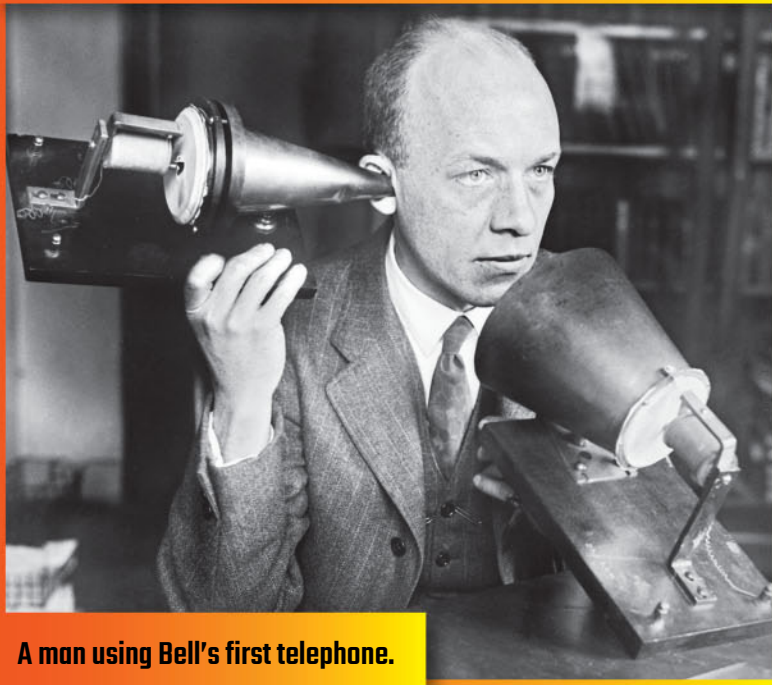


**A one-million-year-old  
stone hand axe**



Without metal fastenings such as nails, screws, or bolts, it would be difficult to build furniture, houses, or bridges. The first person to shape and sharpen a small piece of metal into a nail invented something simple but revolutionary.

**In the late 1870s, Scottish inventor Alexander Graham Bell produced the first telephone that could transmit sounds.**



**A man using Bell's first telephone.**

**Today's inventors have designed smartphones that can be used for speaking, texting, going online, making movies, and even capturing virtual Pokémon creatures.**



# An Inventor's World

Is an inventor a scientist? An **engineer**? A **designer**? Usually, an inventor is all three of these things and more.

An inventor may be the first person to create an entirely new object or a new way of doing something. Sometimes, however, inventors create new and improved versions of things that already exist.

Inventors look at the world and see problems that need to be fixed. Then they work on invention ideas that could solve the problem. For example, shaking thick ketchup from the bottom of a glass bottle was always difficult. The solution to the problem was to invent an upside-down, squeezable plastic bottle.





An inventor using a 3D printer to produce a plastic object.



Inventors might do their work in **laboratories**, workshops, or offices. They may work alone, developing their own ideas, or be employed by a big company as part of a team in the R&D (research and development) department.

Inventors might use simple equipment such as a notebook and pencil. They also work with computers, electronics equipment, wood or metalworking tools, and 3D printers.



Engineer Kevin Albert works on a design for a robot with an inflatable body in his company's robotics laboratory.