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Study Guide for the Exam on the Inventors!

Alexander Graham Bell – He invented the telephone in 1876 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Thomas Edison – He invented the electric light bulb in 1879 at his laboratory in New Jersey called Menlo Park.

George Washington Carver – He came up with a way to grow peanuts and sweet potatoes in the South. He also came up with over 300 uses for peanuts – including peanut butter! He did his work in the early 1900s.

The Wright Brothers – They invented the first airplane that could successfully hold a human and an engine in 1903.

Assembly Line – A process to make things where a bunch of people have a task and together they make one single product.

Specialization – When a person concentrates on doing one task when making something rather than the entire object.

Transatlantic – A trip across the Atlantic Ocean.

Charles Lindbergh – The first person to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. This was a transatlantic flight.

Henry Ford – He started the Ford Motor Company. He helped create the assembly line, and made the first car that a lot of people could afford to buy.

How did Alexander Graham Bell change the way people communicate?

Alexander Graham Bell changed the way we communicate by making it easier to get in touch with people. Instead of having to send a message through a telegraph or mail to tell a person something, a person could now just pick up a phone and call a person to get a hold of them. Also, people could have back and forth conversations like they would in person. This made getting in touch with relatives, business partners, and friends easier.

How did Edison change the way people live and work?

Thomas Edison and his invention of the light bulb made it possible to do work at night. Instead of using candles which can be very dangerous and not that bright, light bulbs can be turned on with a switch and allow shops, factories, and schools

Name: _____

to stay open longer. Also, light bulbs were added to trains, streets, and almost everywhere you go to help people see at night.

How did George Washington Carver change farming in the South?

Before Carver, most farms in the South grew cotton. The problem with cotton was that cotton was not worth that much money. Also, farmers could really only sell the cotton. They could not eat it or make use of it in their own lives. When Carver came up with a way to grow peanuts and sweet potatoes in the South, farmers started making more money, and they could also eat part of their crop which saved money that would have had to spend on food. He helped create a richer life for farmers in the South.

How did the Wright Brothers change the way we get around?

The Wright Brothers invented the airplane. Over time the airplane became the fastest way to travel. Therefore, going to places that would have taken days if not weeks on trains or boats, now only take hours on planes. For instance, a train ride to New York would take 3 or more days. However, a plane ride to New York only takes 2 hours. Make travel times shorter made doing business with people far away and, seeing relatives in different states easier.

How did these inventions affect and change our lives today?

We use all of these inventions today. Many times we don't even think about turning on the lights, picking up the phone, eating peanut butter, or getting on a plane. All of these inventions that were created around the same time between the years 1875 - 1903 are still useful in our lives today!

How does specialization and mass production help the buyer (consumer) and seller (producer)?

Specialization and mass production made it easy for business to make a lot of something. Because businesses were able to make a lot of something, they could sell each thing for a cheaper price. This was good for the buyer (consumer) because they could get things for a cheaper price. For example, if a business was only able to make one car a day, they would have to sell that car for a lot of money. However, if a business can make 100 cars a day, the business can sell each car for a cheaper price because they have more cars to sell.