
Science For Everyone 1

Top Ten Inventions
That Changed The World

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Why Inventions?

Man is a great inventor, and he cannot live without inventions. The very fact that you are reading this book on a Kindle, a Tab Computer, or on any other electronic device, shows that inventions are both necessary as well as helpful. What would have been life without fire, wheels, paper, pen, books, and internet? Tens of thousands of inventions take place every year.

However, this does not mean that all inventions are equally important or life-transforming. In *Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1)* fact some of them only introduce minor improvements that can always be managed even without them. However, some of them are so radically life-transforming that surely the world would not have been what it is without them.

I try to *Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1)* introduce and explain the top ten inventions. There is almost one hundred per cent unanimity in the world of learning that these are surely the TOP ten.

Top Invention 1: Stone Tools

Man has come a long way from his earliest years. It is obvious to any observant person that today we have many more things to help us than what were available a mere five years ago. The first laptop computer I used was all of seven kilograms with a two kilogram power-supply. I had to carry it in my laptop. Today a million times more powerful machines are available that weigh only one tenth as much. Man's inventions make life easy. However, it all started with building of stone tools in an era where metal were not yet available.

Humans had to kill animals. Then they had to skin and cut them. Vegetables and fruits obtained from nature had to be skinned and cut. Some of the harder ones like coconut had to be removed of the multiple-inch thick husk before the hard-shelled coconut was exposed. Even if they were able to break the hard shell on stone, the next problem was how to gouge out the soft part of coconut! Then if he Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) were to Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) plant something, dig the earth to cultivate something, man needed something, some tool, to facilitate it.

All of the above led mankind to invent stone tools, and therefore stone-tools can be labelled as the most important invention that transformed human history. From using stones to break things, they eventually discovered that stones with sharp edges can be used to peel or cut. One experiment led to another, Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) and stone tools were born.

Some of the earliest round, oval, sharp, and pointed stone tools

Initially the stone tools were simple, used for break. Then sharper tools made of harder stones were used for chopping were used. Man learns and adapts fast, so very soon he invented sharp stone-blades made of hard stones made of chert or flint, radiolarite, chalcedony, obsidian, basalt, Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) and quartzite. Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) Some of these blades are sharp beyond belief even thousands of years after they were made.

Simple stone tools that they made in the beginning

Soon they made axe heads, needles, hammers and a whole lot Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) of other tools. It seems that they even invented primitive stone-based lathe that were Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) able to cut accurate circular hollows in soft and hard stones.

Polished stone axe-heads

Humans have the ability to learn and adapt fast. What started then as stone tools soon became more refined. Once they Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) discovered metals, what they made so far with stone were not made in a much more refined manner in metal. What is more, metals, because of their infinite capacity to be cut and shaped, gave rise to numerous kinds of tools that were not conceivable made in stone.

Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1)
Refinement in metal-making gave further impetus to tool-making. So much so that today each industry has hundreds (or even thousands of) tools that relate to that specific industry alone. Entire super-markets are often devoted to tools of a single industry. A good example is tools related to surgery. They have become so numerous that each surgical sub-specialty has thousands of specialized tools. So Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) much so that the full range of surgery today has Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) hundreds of thousands of tools developed for the Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) specific purpose of surgery alone.

Even the most commonly used household tools, that once occupied no more than a single drawer, today occupy mega hardware shops in cities.

As any tool lover knows, tools have made life easy. Working with the right tool is a pleasure whether it Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) is a hobby project or self-repair of a complex machine. A surgeon is able to insert a thin tube in an

artery at a person's thigh to perform a complex heart-surgery because of the development of tools. Thus life has been rendered easy and convenient because of tools. All of this started with the invention of stone tools. What is more, had man not invented stone tools, all the other developments that we see today would not have taken place because it is tools that drive progress through research.

Top Invention 2: The Wheel

For thousands of years human life, survival, expansion, and progress has required mobility and travel. This has been provided by a range Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) of vehicles starting from bullock carts up to the experimental automated cars that have already Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) traversed hundreds of thousands of kilometers for experiment in automation. We generally take all the above for granted, but actually ALL of them depend upon a simple – but vital – invention: the wheel.

Whether it is a bullock Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) cart or an ultra-modern bomb-diffusion remotely-controlled vehicle, all of them move on wheels. Take away the wheels, and they fail to work. There definitely was a time when man was unaware wheels. Travel was either on foot or on animal back. Luggage was carried on head or shoulders. Heavier luggage was either dragged or carried on animal back. However, all these methods could carry only limited weight, whereas human progress demands the ability to travel fast and move vast masses of material for business or for industrial purposes.

It seems that wheels were discovered around 3500 BC or slightly before that. The first wheels were made of wood because metal was not available yet. Soon wheels of stone were also made for crushing olives and other oilseeds. Other uses of wheels were discovered soon and potter's wheel, millstone for grinding grains, and similar Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) other wheel-based simple machines were invented.

Soon, all kinds of transportation vehicles, including chariots for use in war were invented. Initially the wheels were strong circular wooden disks. They worked well, but the stronger the wheel, the heavier it became because of the bulk of the wheel.

Very soon they discovered that wooden spokes are sufficient to keep the wheels strong, but this made wheels considerably light. The lighter the wheel, the lesser the burden on animals that draw the cart or chariot. This helped both trade which was able to carry larger weight as well as war where lighter Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1)

chariots were able to go faster.

However strong wooden, spoked or non-spoked, were, they had a very high level of wear and tear. After all wood is wood not iron or steel. But the moment they discovered iron, they started reinforcing wooden wheels with iron. In the picture above, you can see the iron ring that clads the outer portion of the wheel and also the two rings that reinforce the axis portion. The use of iron, and other Top Ten Inventions That Changed The World (Science For Everyone Book 1) metals as they became available, along with spoked wooden wheels gave unusual strength, agility, and smoothness of ride to wheeled vehicles.

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