

Famous Designers and Inventors



Aim

- To understand how key events and individuals in design and technology have helped shape the world.

Starter Activity

How many designers or inventors can you name?

What did they each create?

The Wright Brothers

The Wright brothers, also known as Orville and Wilbur Wright, were American siblings and great technological innovators.

They are credited with inventing the airplane having made the first successful human flight with a craft powered by engine.

To help design the wings for planes, they studied how birds flew and used their wings.



Alexander Graham Bell

Alexander Graham Bell was interested in the idea of transmitting speech from one place to another.

He invented the telephone. We will learn more about him later this week.



Stephanie Kwolek

Stephanie Kwolek was an American-Polish chemist who worked with synthetic (humanly-constructed) fibres.

She invented **Kevlar**, an incredibly light but very strong material.

Kevlar is most commonly known for its use in bulletproof vests, which have saved thousands of lives.

However, it is also used for everything from bicycle tires to boat sails!



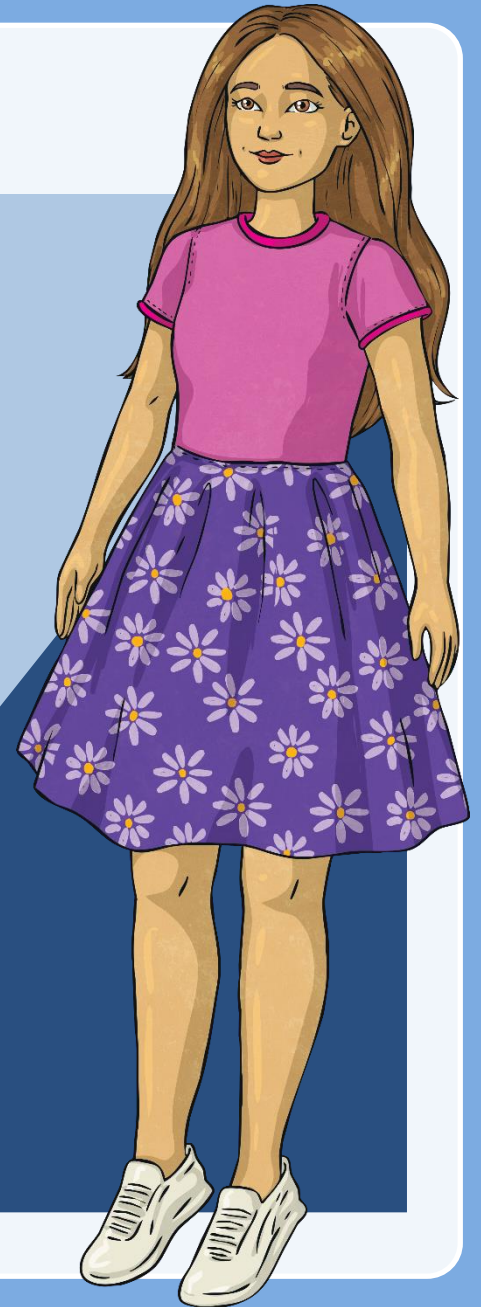
Ruth Handler

Ruth Handler designed the Barbie doll, a popular toy all over the world.

While watching her daughter play with paper dolls, she set out to invent a 3D doll that children could play with.

Ruth named the doll Barbie, after her daughter Barbara. She also designed the male doll Ken, which she named after her son.

The Barbie doll is still one of the bestselling toys in the world.

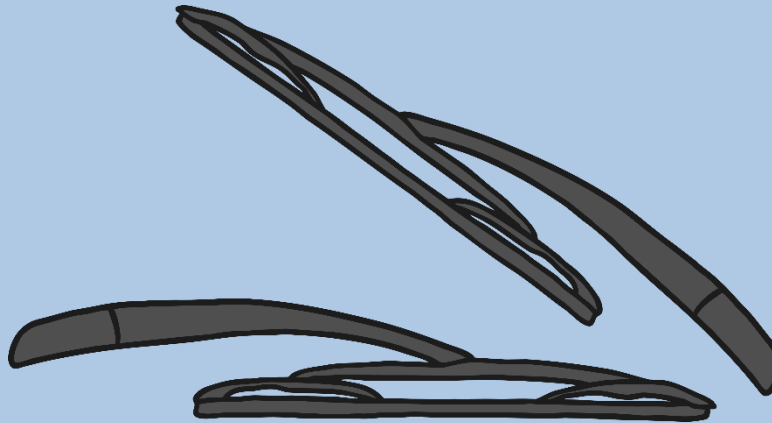


Mary Anderson

Mary Anderson invented windscreen wipers.

On a rainy journey to New York, she noticed other drivers having to open their windows and look out in order to see where they were going.

She invented a swinging arm with a rubber blade that could be operated by the driver from inside the vehicle to solve the problem.

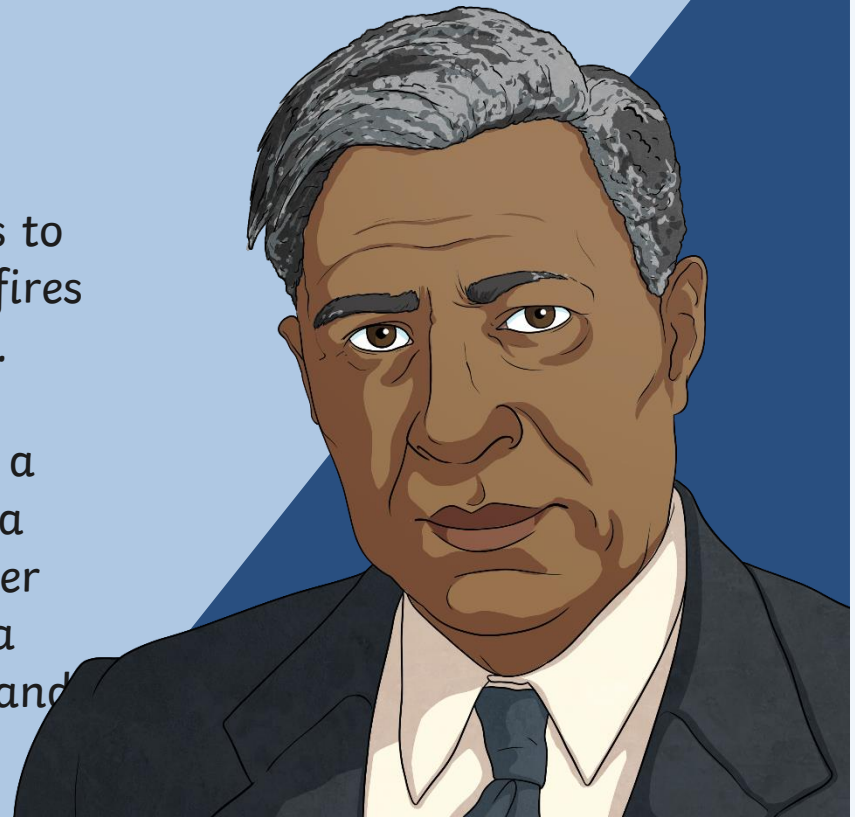


Garrett Morgan

Garrett Morgan was an American inventor, businessman and community leader.

Morgan invented a number of inventions including a protective smoke safety hood for firefighters to protect them while dealing with fires and a hair straightening product.

Most famously, Morgan patented a design for traffic signals to have a third 'warning' signal in 1922 after witnessing a serious accident at a junction between an automobile and a horse carriage.



Steve Jobs

Steve Jobs designed the iPod in 2001 to satisfy the demand for music on the move. It was very popular because it was small and stylish.

From this, Jobs launched iTunes so that customers could download music on to their iPod.

Jobs went on to design the iPhone, iPad and many other products for the company, Apple before he died at the age of 56.

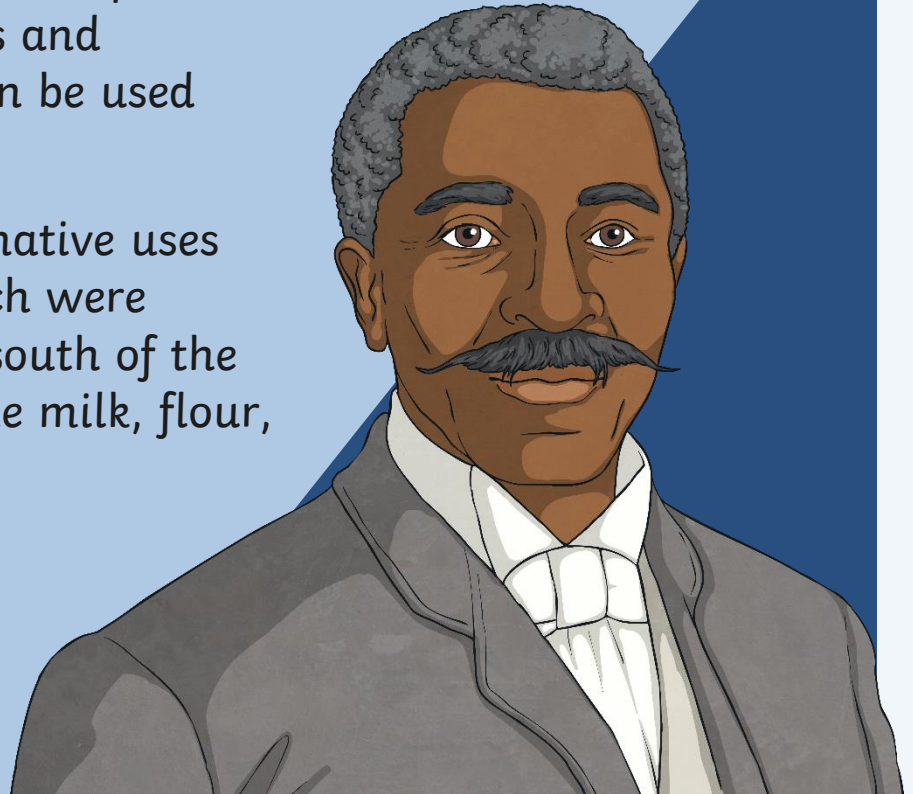


George Washington Carver

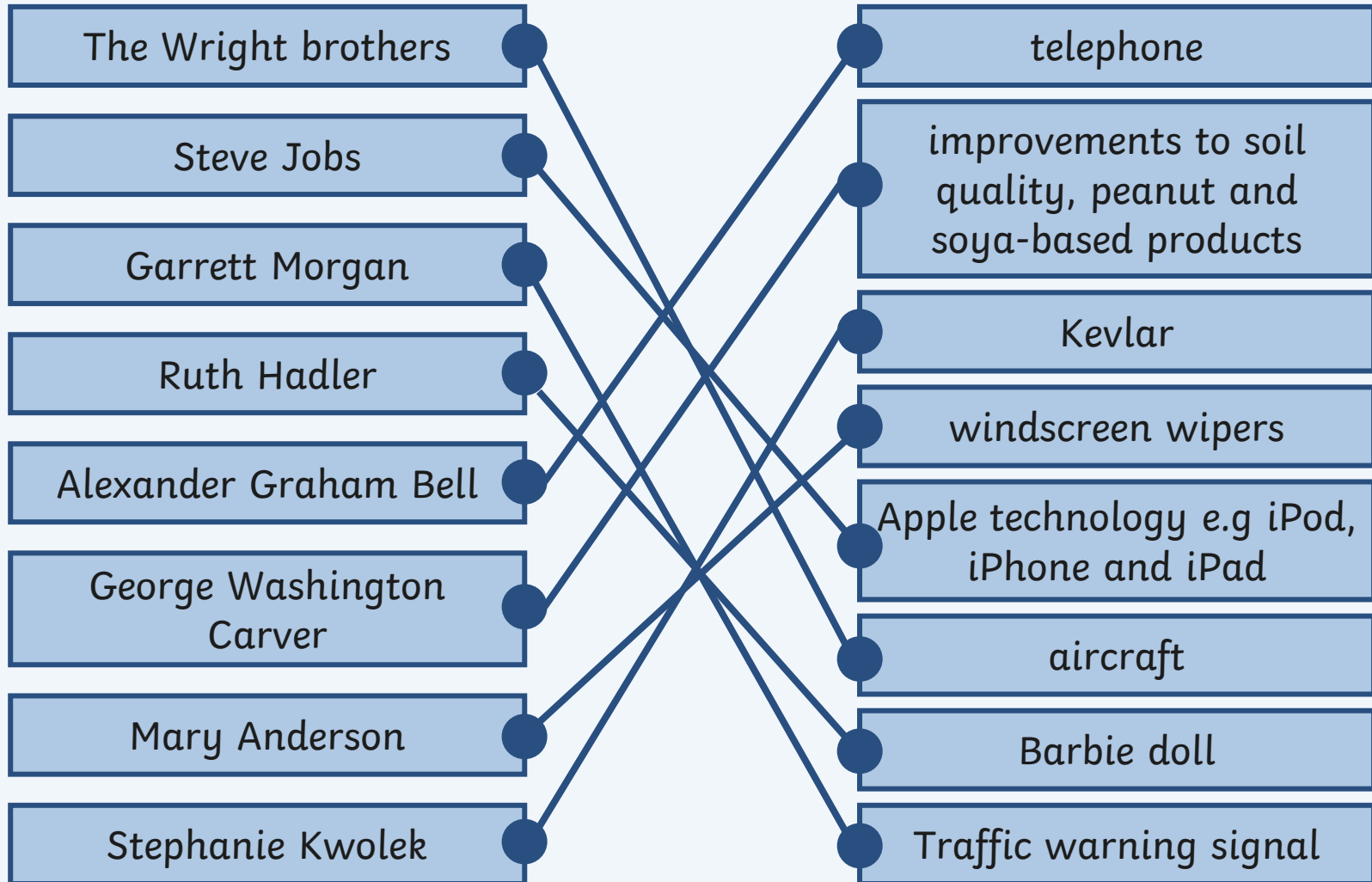
George Washington Carver was an American agricultural scientist and inventor.

Carver worked in Alabama, USA to help farmers grow better quality crops and improve the soil's quality so it can be used again for growing other crops.

Carver also went on to find alternative uses for peanuts and soya beans, which were grown in large quantities in the south of the USA, such as making products like milk, flour, ink, plastics and soap.



Who Invented What?



Activity

Order the designers and inventors in order of importance.

Give reasons why you ordered them in the way that you did.



Activity



Think of an appliance that is used regularly in your home or school.

Research who invented it.

Plenary

Watch the clip from Dragon's Den, the link is on the word document attached to the blog and decide if you would back the invention or not.

Give reasons for your answers.

