

Sarah E. Goode Invention Activity

Teacher Instructions

For this lesson your students will learn the importance of Sarah E. Goode’s 19th century invention, the folding cabinet bed. Students will complete an activity in which they invent something useful to people today.

Instructions:

1. Read the passage, and answer the questions.
2. Complete the **Invention Graphic Organizer**.
3. Optional:
 - (a) Provide basic art supplies so students can create prototypes or mock-ups of their inventions.
 - (b) Instruct students to research various inventions and to choose one that needs to be improved; then, design the improvements.
 - (c) Allow students to work with partners or in small groups. After they’ve completed the **Invention Graphic Organizer**, have them make a commercial for their inventions and perform it for the class.

Instructions to Student:

Prior to reading—Do you have an invention idea that everyone will love? Have you thought about how your invention can improve other people’s lives? Read about Sarah E. Goode, an inventor and entrepreneur of the 19th century, and answer some questions. Afterwards, you will describe your own invention for something that is needed today.

After reading—You read about how Sarah E. Goode solved a problem that people had in the 19th century. Her folding cabinet bed was of great value to people in tight living quarters. Think about something that people in the 21st century might need. What type of invention will make life easier today?

Notes:

Before students complete the **Invention Graphic Organizer**, you may want to do some of the following. This presents various inventions and may help students gain insights into how inventions change people’s lives.

1. play clips from the History Channel’s [Amazing Gadgets](#)
2. visit [iKIDS](#) website
3. visit [National Inventors Hall of Fame](#) website
4. watch [Cool Inventions Videos](#) (from National Geographic Kids)