

Read the following text:

## **Kid Inventors Who Changed Our Lives**

Many adults think that children are not as smart as they are. But you may be surprised to discover that a lot of the inventions we know and love today were hatched in the minds of kids.

### **Frank Epperson: Popsicle**

Eleven-year-old Frank Epperson invented the popsicle. It was a winter night in 1905 when Frank decided to make some juice. He accidentally left the drink outside that night, with the stirring stick in the glass. The juice froze, and the first popsicle was born.

### **George Nissen: Trampoline**

George invented the trampoline in 1930 at 16. He came up with the idea after going to a circus, where he saw the acrobats using a net to catch them when they fell. He thought the act would be more exciting if they kept bouncing around, so he began working in his parent's garage and made the first trampoline.

### **Chester Greenwood: Earmuffs**

In 1873 when he was 15 years old, Chester Greenwood's ears got painfully cold one day while ice skating. He found that wrapping a scarf around his head didn't help much, so he decided to find a better solution. Chester took some wire and made a headband. He asked his grandmother to sew beaver skins to it, and so the first pair of earmuffs were created.

## **Reading Comprehension**

Answer the following questions about the text:

1. What can be a good title for the text?

- a. Four Amazing Inventions
- b. Surprising Inventors
- c. The First Earmuffs

2. Mark “True” or “False” next to each sentence:

- a. The first popsicle was invented during a hot summer day - \_\_\_\_\_
- b. The first popsicle was made of juice - \_\_\_\_\_
- c. George Nissen was an acrobat - \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. George Nissen’s parents helped him to invent the trampoline - \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Chester Greenwood’s grandmother helped him to invent the earmuffs - \_\_\_\_\_

Answers:

- a. False
- b. True
- c. False
- d. False
- e. True

## Vocabulary

1. What word in paragraph one means “clever”?

- a. adults
- b. minds
- c. smart

2. What word in paragraph two means “by mistake”?

- a. accidentally
- b. outside
- c. born

3. What word in paragraph three is the opposite of “last”?

- a. idea
- b. act
- c. last

4. Which word in paragraph four is the opposite of “worse”?

- a. better
- b. cold
- c. solution

## Grammar

1. Rewrite the following sentences as NEGATIVE sentences:

- a. Frank decided to make some juice.
- b. He left the drink outside at night.
- c. The juice froze.
- d. He came up with an amazing idea.
- e. He made the first trampoline.
- f. Chester’s ears got painfully cold.
- g. Chester took some wire and made a headband.

### Answers:

- a. Frank didn’t decide to make some juice.
- b. He didn’t leave the drink outside at night.
- c. The juice didn’t freeze.
- d. He didn’t come up with an amazing idea.
- e. He didn’t make the first trampoline.
- f. Chester’s ears didn’t get painfully cold.
- g. Chester didn’t take some wire and didn’t make a headband.

2. Turn the following sentences into questions using the question words in the brackets:

- a. Many adults think that children are not as smart as they are. (**what**)
- b. Eleven-year-old Frank Epperson invented the popsicle. (**how old**)
- c. George invented the trampoline in 1930. (**when**)
- d. He saw the acrobats using a net to catch them when they fell. (**whom**)
- e. He began working in his parent's garage. (**where**)
- f. Chester decided to find a better solution. (**who**)
- g. He made a headband. (**what**)

Answers:

- a. What do many adults think?
- b. How old was Frank Epperson when he invented the popsicle?
- c. When did George invent the trampoline?
- d. Whom did he see using a net to catch them when they fell?
- e. Where did he begin working?
- f. Who decided to find a better solution?
- g. What did he make?