

## A Better Mouse Trap

### **Scenario:**

As you know, some inventions from the past had a significant impact on how we live today. The Tech Museum in San Jose wants to add a new feature to its website highlighting inventions of the past and present that have changed the way people live. Your team is a group of web developers specializing in educational websites. A member of your team has received a Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by the Board of Directors of the museum. The RFP requires a multimedia presentation featuring an invention from the past 10 years compared to an invention from over 100 years ago. The presentation must be made in person before a subcommittee of the Board. Your team would love to win this lucrative contract.

### ***Possible topics to cover (these are only suggestions and are not a requirement for a superior presentation):***

1. What were your criteria for selecting the inventions?
2. Describe the modern invention you have selected.
3. How is this invention changing the way people live today?
4. Describe the earlier invention you have selected.
5. Was the earlier invention widely recognized at the time or did it take time for its value to be recognized?
6. How did the earlier invention evolve over time and affect generations to come?
7. Do we still have some form of the invention in use today?
8. Project how the recent invention will evolve and be perceived by future generations.
9. How did the two inventions change the way people live?
10. Compare and contrast the two inventions.

### ***Bibliography***

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Be sure to have a printed bibliography to hand to the judges before you begin your presentation. You are encouraged to cite all of your sources including graphics. A simple web tool to organize your bibliography can be found at <http://citationmachine.net/>. You do not have to put your bibliography at the end of your PowerPoint.

## Grade 6 2011 Resources

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#### *Possible Sources*

Newspapers, historians, scientists, videos, the Internet, encyclopedias, history textbooks, and the ERS Portal (<http://www.erslibrary.org>).

#### *Online Sources*

**Top 10 Greatest Inventors in History:** <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-greatest-inventors-in-history.php>

**Smithsonian Institution and Museums:** <http://www.150.si.edu/150trav/remember/amerinv.htm>  
American inventors and inventions.

**Public Broadcasting System:** <http://www.pbs.org/search/?q=inventors&ss=pbs>  
Information about inventors.

#### **Inventions of the Industrial Revolution:**

<http://americanhistory.about.com/library/charts/blchartindrev.htm>

A list of key inventors and dates of the Industrial Revolution.

**Inventions that Changed the World for the Better:** <http://product-ivity.com/inventions-that-changed-the-world/>

Medical and technology inventions which really have made the world a better place in which to live.

**Women Inventors:** [http://inventors.about.com/od/womeninventors/Women\\_Inventors.htm](http://inventors.about.com/od/womeninventors/Women_Inventors.htm)

Famous women inventors - learn about women inventing in traditionally male fields and why women are a minority of patent holders and how that is rapidly changing.