

Teenage Inventors

It is never too early to start changing the world. These young people decided to do something to change the world in a positive way.



Rifath Shaarook, from India, was the son of a local scientist. He was interested in the skies from a young age. At just 18 years old, he and his friends invented KalamSat, the world's lightest satellite. It weighed just 64 grams. It could be launched much more cheaply than regular satellites and was used to do science tests in space.

Hannah Herbst, from the USA, invented the Beacon, an easily made water turbine, at the age of 15. She had a pen friend in Ethiopia who didn't have electricity in her house, so Hannah decided to make something to help her. Hannah's invention could be used in the ocean or a big river to make power for poor homes at a low cost.



Lalita Srisai, from India, built a water filter using old corn cobs. Many poor people in India don't have clean water, but there is a lot of corn. Lalita began testing her ideas when she was just 11 years old. When she was a child, a lot of old corn was seen by the roadside, so she used it to make a special water filter. It cleans about 80% of bad chemicals and bacteria from the water, and is very cheap.

True or False

1. Rifath Shaarook was the son of a local farmer.	T / F
2. KalamSat weighed just 64 grams.	T / F
3. Hannah Herbst had a pen friend in Ethiopia.	T / F
4. Hannah's invention needs water to work.	T / F
5. Lalita Srisai used rice to build a water filter.	T / F
6. The water filter costs a lot of money.	T / F



Questions

1. What was the KalamSat used to do? _____
2. Why did Hannah decide to invent something? _____
3. Where could Hannah's invention be used? _____
4. When did Lalita begin testing her ideas? _____
5. What was seen by the roadside in India? _____

What do you think? Which of the three inventions – the mini satellite, the water turbine, the water filter – is the best, and why?
