

9A Group Test #3 Unit 3

Young Inventors

1 Steve Jobs was a teenager when he and Steve Wozniak first started working together on inventing things. Their most famous invention was the Apple computer. Bill Gates created his first computer program when he was still in high school. But young inventors aren't new to the modern world. There have been young inventors throughout history.

Here are three examples:

2 The first mechanical adding machine was invented in 1642 by a 19-year-old Frenchman named Blaise Pascal, who later became a famous mathematician. Pascal's father was a tax collector in France. Blaise was working with his father and invented a machine to make adding the numbers faster and easier. The machine, called the Pascaline, looked like a big metal box. Pascal's invention was important because it was a step in the development of calculators.

3 In 1824, 15-year-old Louis Braille developed a special way for blind people to read and write. Braille lost his eyesight in an accident when he was a small child. Luckily, his parents encouraged him to learn new things and to do things by himself. He went to school at France's Royal Institute for Blind Youth, one of the first schools for blind children in the world. While studying there, he invented a special system for reading and writing, using raised dots. His system, braille, is now used throughout the world.

4 There were also teen inventors in sports. George Nissen was a high school gymnast who liked to watch trapeze artists jump off their swings into the safety net, where they bounced⁵ and turned. He thought that bouncing and turning like that could help him in his training as a gymnast. So, in 1934, Nissen and his coach made the first trampoline. They took canvas, a special kind of strong cloth, and attached it to a metal frame. The trampoline became popular at schools and circuses, and eventually developed into a new sport. Nissen had always wanted trampolining to be an Olympic sport. His dream finally came true at the 2000 Summer Olympics.

5 Pascal, Braille and Nissen didn't plan to become inventors. They just wanted to improve the situation, for themselves and for others, at work, at school or in sports. If they could do it, maybe you too have the creativity to be an inventor.

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph? (15 points)

- a. Steve Jobs invented the Apple computer.
- b. There have always been teenage inventors.
- c. Young inventors usually work together.
- d. Bill Gates is famous as a young inventor.

2. Complete the chart below. (8*2=16 points)

Name of Inventor	Age	Problem	Year of Invention	Solution / Invention
	19	He wanted to make adding all the numbers faster and easier.		
Louis Braille			1824	braille
	teenager	He wanted a way that bouncing and turning could help him train as a gymnast.		

3. What is the connection between Pascal's machine and calculators? (15 points)

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4. List TWO ways Louis Braille's parents helped him succeed. (7*2=14 points)

1)

2)

5. a. Circle the correct answer, Yes or No. (10*2=20 points)

Braille's invention was a success. YES / NO

b. Copy the words from the article that helped you answer.

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6. Why did George Nissen want to make a trampoline? (10 points)

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7. Write the paragraph number for each heading. (10 points)

Paragraph

a. Let Your Fingers Do the Reading

b. Jumping for Joy

c. A Faster Way to Add

d. Becoming an Inventor

e. Young Inventors in Past and the Present