

YOUNG INVENTORS

The world has seen a lot of young inventors throughout history, from Louis Braille's invention of the Braille reading system at age 15, to Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone at age 18, and many others. Young people have great ideas, and many more continue to bring the world amazing inventions today.



Kenneth Shinozuka was 15 years old when he invented a special device to help his grandfather. Kenneth's grandfather has Alzheimer's disease – a condition that causes problems with memory, and gets worse over time. People who have Alzheimer's disease often forget where they are, or what they are doing. Sometimes they leave their home and walk around outside and get lost, or even hurt.

Kenneth's invention – called Safe Wander – is a small, round device that goes inside a person's socks. When the person stands up, the device sends a message to a smartphone app. Kenneth has won awards for his invention. In the future he wants to study diseases of the brain and find a cure for Alzheimer's disease.



Boyan Slat is a young man from the Netherlands who invented a way to clean up plastic garbage in the ocean when he was 19 years old. Boyan's invention uses the ocean's natural currents; it doesn't need any electricity. The invention uses screens to catch floating plastic garbage, but allows fish and other sea animals to pass through without problems.

Ann Makosinski, a 15-year-old girl in British Columbia, Canada, invented a flashlight that gets its power from human body heat. It doesn't need batteries. The flashlight uses special tiles that produce energy when one side of the tile is warm, and the other side is cool.

I. Choose between True (T) or False (F) to each sentence:

1. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone at the age of 15. ____
2. Kenneth Shinozuka invented a special device to help his sister. ____
3. Safe Wander is a device that goes inside a person's socks. ____
4. In the future Kenneth Shinozuka wants to study diseases of the brain and find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. ____
5. Ann Makosinski invented a flashlight that gets its power from animal body heat. ____

II. Answer the following questions:

1. Louis Braille's invention was the...
 - a) Telephone
 - b) Braille reading system
 - c) Braille writing system
2. Alzheimer's disease is a condition that causes problems with...
 - a) Memory, and gets worse over time.
 - b) Memory, and eating disorder.
 - c) Memory, and growth.
3. When the person stands up, Safe Wander sends a message to...
 - a) A smartwatch
 - b) A video games console
 - c) A smartphone app.
4. Boyan's invention uses the ocean's natural currents; it doesn't need any...
 - a) Electricity
 - b) Water
 - c) Flower