Reading 2

Skills:

- Details

- Associate information

Getting started: Considering current issues such as overpopulation and pollution, what kind of transportation should governments focus on for the future?

ON THE ROAD

Since the invention of the wheel about 5,500 years ago, inventors and engineers have been searching for better, safer, faster, and easier ways of getting around. From electric bikes and aquatic cars to efficient shoes and shape-shifting cars, developers are still coming up with new and exciting ideas.

1. Copenhagen Wheel

The Copenhagen Wheel is designed to make it easier to pedal a bike by increasing the power supplied to the wheels. The red wheel hub contains an electric motor and battery that help amplify a rider's pedal power. The motor activates when the cyclist pedals, and an app lets you change the level of assistance at each moment. With a full charge, the wheel's reported range is up to 50 km (31 mi), with variations depending on assist mode and terrain.

2. See-through truck

Drivers often find it difficult to get past a large truck safely because the truck blocks the view of the road ahead. One possible solution is to put a camera on the truck's hood that sends images to a screen on the truck's back. Drivers behind the truck can then see what's ahead of it and decide when it is safe to try to pass.

3. E02 Car

Small cars have an advantage when it comes to parking. Few are smaller than the EO2. It's only 8½ ft (2.6 m) long, and it can make itself even smaller. The EO2 is designed for crowded cities where rush hours are nightmares and parking in nearly non-existent. The body tips up at the back, and the rear wheels tuck under the body. In addition, all four wheels can swivel 90 degrees, enabling the car to move sideways into tiny parking spaces.

4. Water Car

Deep water defeats most cars, but the WaterCar Panther keeps going. The Panther is an amphibious car, equally happy on land or in water. In water, the driver pulls a lever to activate a waterjet at the back of the car and pushes a button to raise the wheels. The waterjet propels the car. The Panther is fast enough to pull water skiers.

5. Nike FlyEase

Shoes are surely the most basic type of transportation invention, but some disabilities make it difficult to tie laces. When 16-yearold American Matthew Walzer, who suffers from cerebral palsy, asked Nike to make a shoe he could put on by himself, they developed FlyEase. Instead of laces, these sneakers' wraparound zipper can be opened and closed with just one hand.

**Adapted from How Super Cool Tech Works. DK Publishing.*

Read the characteristics below. Match the description with the corresponding invention. Write CW (Copenhagen Wheel), TR (See-through Truck), E02 (E02 Car), WC (Water Car), or NK (Nike FlyEase).

1. It is thought as a solution for moving around in big cities.
2. This is a hybrid vehicle useful for diverse surfaces.
3. This device can help people avoid crashes when driving.
4. It allows you to increase the effects of your physical effort.
5. This is a solution for people who have a certain medical issue.
6. This is a screen that shows what is going on ahead.
7. You can operate this with just one hand.
8. Its shape may change if it is necessary.
9. An app will notify the vehicle when you need more support.
10. It can be used to help people practice aquatic sports.

What do you think?

Which of the inventions above is the most useful one?