



Name _____

Nonfiction: Biography

Date _____

HENRY FORD

Born the first child to William and Mary Ford in 1863, Henry grew up on a farm in Michigan. He went to school in a one-room schoolhouse and helped do chores on the farm. At a young age, he was very interested in how things worked.

He left home at the age of 16 to work with a machinist. He did odd jobs after that until he married Clara Bryant. At that point, he ran a sawmill. Finally, in 1891, he became an engineer at the Edison Illuminating Company in Detroit. He worked up through the ranks, which allowed him free time to work with engines. He created his own quadricycle, which was a bike on four wheels.

Ford went on to accomplish his dream of owning his own company and making his own car. In 1908, he introduced the Model T, but cars were still too expensive for most people. Ford invented the moving assembly line, which allowed him to make cars that were inexpensive, reliable, and efficient. Ford is credited with making the United States a nation of cars. His company is still around today. It is the Ford Motor Company.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What interests did Henry Ford have?
 - a. learning how an airplane worked
 - b. running a sawmill
 - c. learning how things work
 - d. building a car with good gas mileage

2. Ford probably became a machinist's apprentice so he could . . .
 - a. be trained in how to work machines.
 - b. teach how to work machinery.
 - c. be taught how to build cars.
 - d. learn about the history of automobiles.

3. What is the meaning of the word *credited* in the last paragraph?
 - a. added to
 - b. known for
 - c. increasing debt

4. What is the main idea of paragraph three?
 - a. Ford's invention of the quadricycle led to the car.
 - b. Ford was trained by a machinist.
 - c. Ford's cars were too expensive for people.
 - d. Ford's ideas and creativity made cars popular.