

What an invention!



1 **READ THE TEXT. THEN COMPLETE THE TIMELINE BELOW. USE THE PRESENT OR PAST SIMPLE PASSIVE.**

THE WASHING MACHINE

In ancient times, housework was hard because homes didn't have water or electricity. One of the most difficult household activities was washing clothes. People took their dirty clothes to the river once or twice a week and used rocks, sand and water to clean them.

For many years, people tried to find easier ways to wash their clothes. Sailors, for example, put their clothes in bags and threw them into the sea. This method worked quite well because the moving water helped.

In 1846, the first washing machine was invented, but it was difficult to use. The water was cold, so people warmed it on a fire. Then they pulled the clean, wet clothes through a special machine to take out the water.

The first electric washing machine was designed in 1908. It was more useful because it could warm the water but the clothes were still very wet. The contemporary washing machine wasn't invented until the 1930s. This indispensable item has changed our lives. Today, all the hard work is done for us while we sit and relax.

ANCIENT TIMES **TODAY**

Clothes were taken to the river.

2 **LOOK AT THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE DISHWASHER. THEN WRITE THE STAGES IN THE CORRECT ORDER IN THE TIMELINE BELOW. USE THE PRESENT OR SIMPLE PAST**

- Joel Houghton invented the first dishwasher from wood. People didn't use it.
- People use dishwashers in more than 50 per cent of homes.
- Josephine Cochrane invented the first practical dishwasher. Only hotels and restaurants used it.
- People washed dishes by hand.
- People bought dishwashers for their homes.

BEFORE 1850 **TODAY**

LIVEWORKSHEETS