

# Technology Activity #4 – Inventions and Patents

A lesson developed for 4th, 5th and 6th grade students for the purpose of learning how inventions become patented. This lesson is designed to include the use of a computer and the Internet.

## Description:

The world is rapidly changing. Today's workers need to brainstorm, analyze and develop creative solutions to new and challenging situations. When someone creates a product that simplifies ones life, it's called an invention. As we head into this technological era, students need to be innovative in their problem solving.

## Lesson Title:

Inventions and Patents

## Lesson Summary:

Students will research what a patent is and how to apply for one.

## Curriculum Areas:

Social Studies, Research, History



## Purpose:

Students will learn the basics of patents. What is meant by intellectual property and what you need in order to apply for a patent.

## Lesson Activities:

After an invention or idea is completed, patent searching is the next logical step in gaining assurance that no one else already holds a patent on this invention or idea. Next, it will be important to guarantee that no one else will profit from your innovative creation.

1. A good place to start is the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office web site for kids: [www.uspto.gov/go/kids](http://www.uspto.gov/go/kids). At this web site, kids will learn what a patent is and how it can protect a unique idea of any inventors.
2. Some really unique patents can be found at the Wacky Patent of the Month web site: [www.colitz.com/site/wacky/new.html](http://www.colitz.com/site/wacky/new.html). Here they scour the patent office in search of crazy ideas and show the actual schematic or drawing of that particular invention.
3. You may want to search the patent office for inventions that might be similar to the ones made by the students. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office web site is: [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov). Here you can even do a search on a particular patent number. For a quick example, flip your mouse over and find where it says PAT and some numbers. Search the patent office web site for that number and it should come up with some interesting data.
4. Finally, your class might want to investigate how to apply for a patent. Visit this web site where all the information and requests for applications are: [www.uspto.gov/main/patents.htm](http://www.uspto.gov/main/patents.htm).

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