

Famous & Interesting Inventions 1927 to Present

During the over 80 years Wolf Greenfield has been around, there have been many notable, and probably not so notable inventions to come along. In fact, we found a lot of them at <http://inventors.about.com/od/astartinventions/a/FamousInvention.htm>. Too many, in fact, to include in the firm timeline, so we are including them here. Take a look. You never know when this information might help you win a trivia game.

- 1928 Sliced bread is invented. Otto Frederick Rohwedder of Davenport, Iowa invents the first loaf-at-a-time bread-slicing machine. A prototype he built in 1917 was destroyed in a fire, and it was not until 1928 that Rohwedder has a fully working machine ready.
- 1928 Mickey Mouse's makes his film debut in Steamboat Willie. Walt Disney invented Mickey Mouse and the multi-plane camera.
- 1929 Charles Leiper Grigg invents a new drink called "Bib-Label Lithiated Lemon-Lime Sodas." The name is quickly changed to "7 Up Lithiated Lemon-Lime" and then again quickly changed to just "7Up".
- 1930 Scotch tape is invented by 3M engineer Richard Drew, who previously invented a masking tape for bodyshop painters. One painter became frustrated with the sample masking tape and exclaimed, "Take this tape back to those Scotch bosses of yours and tell them to put more adhesive on it!" The name stuck . . . so to speak.
- 1932 Carl Magee invents the first parking meter.
- 1933 Ralph Wiley, a Dow Chemical lab worker, accidentally discovers polyvinylidene chloride or Saran. The military sprays it on fighter planes to guard against salty sea spray and carmakers use it for upholstery. Saran films are best known in the form of Saran Wrap ® film, the first cling wrap designed for household (introduced in 1953).
- 1936 Parker Brothers introduces Monopoly ® after purchasing the rights from Charles Darrow.
- 1937 Xerography – a copying process based on electrostatic energy – is invented by Chester Carlson, who is both a research engineer and a patent attorney. The Xerox Corporation trademarks the name "Xerox" and has protected the name carefully.
- 1938 Dr. Roy Plunkett at the DuPont research laboratories is working with gases related to Freon® refrigerants when he discovers a sample has polymerized spontaneously into a white, waxy solid to form polytetrafluoroethylene or PTFE, later marketed under the DuPont Teflon ® trademark.
- 1939 Luther George Simjian patents an early and not-so-successful prototype of an ATM.
- 1939 The View-Master system was invented by William Gruber, an organ maker and avid photographer who lived in Portland, OR. He had the idea of updating the old-fashioned stereoscope by using the newly available Kodachrome color film.
- 1941 Russell Ohl invents the silicon solar cell.

- 1943 Richard James is a naval engineer working with tension springs when he notices how the spring keeps moving after it hits the ground. His wife, Betty, names the new toy "Slinky" which debuts, and immediately sells out, at Gimbel's Department Store in Philadelphia. Each Slinky is made from 80 feet of wire and over a quarter billion Slinkys have been sold worldwide.
- 1946 Jacques Heim and Louis Reard invent the bikini, named after the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands, the site of the first atomic bomb testing.
- 1947 Jonas Salk invents the Polio vaccine.
- 1947 The Tupperware seal is patented by Earl Silas Tupper, a New Hampshire tree surgeon and plastics innovator, who began experimenting with polyethylene, used primarily for insulation, radar, and radio equipment.
- 1948 Andrew Moyer receives a patent for a method of the mass production of penicillin.
- 1948 Walter Frederick Morrison and partner Warren Franscioni invent a plastic flying disc that can fly further and more accurately than a tin pie plate. Morrison receives over one million dollars in royalties for his invention – the frisbee.
- 1949 Commercial cake mix is invented.
- 1949 Silly Putty ® hits the market and sells faster than any other toy in history with over \$6 million in sales for the year.
- 1950 The familiar green plastic garbage bag is invented by Harry Wasylyk
- 1950 John Hopps invents the first cardiac pacemaker. While experimenting with radio frequency heating to restore body temperature, Hopps discovers that a heart could be started again using mechanical or electric means.
- 1952 The first patent for bar codes is issued to Joseph Woodland and Bernard Silver.
- 1952 The floppy disc is invented
- 1952 George Lerner patents Mr. Potato Head, designed as a prize for cereal premiums. Mr. Potato Head was the first toy to be advertised on television, and in 1985, received four write-in votes in the mayoral election in Boise, ID.
- 1953 James D. Watson and Francis Crick suggested what is now accepted as the first accurate model of DNA structure in a series of five articles appearing in the journal, Nature.
- 1954 Scientists at Bell Laboratories develop a crystalline silicon photovoltaic cell, with an efficiency of six percent.
- 1954 Dee Horton and Lew Hewitt invent the sliding automatic door.

- 1956 Noah McVicker and Joseph McVicker patent a modeling composition eventually known as Play-Doh ®. It was originally designed as a wallpaper cleaner and the original formula – made only in off-white – still remains a trade secret.
- 1958 Wham-O trademarks the name Hula Hoop ® and starts manufacturing the toy out of the new plastic Marlex. In the first six months, 20 million hula hoops are sold for \$1.98 each. The world record for the largest Hula Hoop spun was set by Ashrita Furman at 51.5 feet on June 1, 2007.
- 1959 The Barbie doll is invented by Ruth Handler.
- 1960 Arthur Granjean develops and begins to market the Etch-A-Sketch ®
- 1962 The first commercial modem is manufactured – the Bell 103 by AT&T – with a speed of 300 bits per second or 300 bauds.
- 1964 BASIC (Beginner's All Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) is invented by John Kemeny and Tom Kurtz.
- 1965 James Faria and Robert Wright of Monsanto Industries co-invent AstroTurf
- 1966 Stephanie Kwolek patents a synthetic material called Kevlar which is five times stronger than the same weight of steel. Kevlar does not rust or corrode and is the material used in bullet proof vests.
- 1968 Working prototype of Magnavox Odyssey -- the world's first video game console -- is completed by Ralph Baer. It wasn't demonstrated until May 1972, then released that fall. The prototype, known as the "Brown Box", resides at the Smithsonian Institution.
- 1968 Roy Jacuzzi invents the first self-contained, fully integrated whirlpool bath by incorporating jets into the sides of the tub.
- 1971 Intel introduces the world's first single chip microprocessor, the Intel 4004, invented by Federico Faggin, Ted Hoff, and Stan Mazor, who decided upon the name "Intel" as a shortened version of "Integrated Electronics".
- 1972 Hacky Sack is invented by John Stalberger, looking for a fun way to exercise his knees after knee surgery, and Mike Marshall, who has been kicking around a hand-made bean bag
- 1973 General Motors offers the first car safety air bags as an option in the 1973 Chevrolet.
- 1974 Erno Rubik invents the Rubik's Cube. Beginning with a puzzle cube, he discovered it was not so easy to realign the colors to match on all six sides. He began working out sequences of moves and had the puzzle solved in a month. The first Cubes appeared in 1977.
- 1976 Xavier Roberts invents 'Little Person' dolls, the first Cabbage Patch Kids.
- 1977 W. Gilbert and F. Sanger invent a method to sequence DNA

- 1977 Robert Metcalf and others receive a patent on a "Multipoint data communication system with collision detection". Now an international computer industry standard, ethernet is the most widely installed LAN protocol.
- 1979 VisiCalc – the first computer spreadsheet program – is released to the public. With it, you could change any cell, and the entire sheet would be automatically recalculated.
- 1979 Sony introduces the Walkman, a commercial wearable cassette player. Later products would include Music CD-players.
- 1979 Trivial Pursuit is first conceived by Chris Haney and Scott Abbott while playing a game of Scrabble. The board game wasn't commercially released until 1981.
- 1986 The Human Genome Project is launched.
- 1988 Ralph Alessio and Fredrik Olsen receive a patent for the Indiglo ® nightlight. The bluish green light is used to illuminate the entire face of a watch.
- 1988 The first patent for a genetically engineered animal is issued to Harvard University researchers Philip Leder and Timothy Stewart.
- 1990 Hubble Space Telescope is launched. Hubble's position above the atmosphere gives it a view of the universe far surpassing ground-based telescopes. It has beamed hundreds of thousands of images back to Earth, shedding light on many mysteries of astronomy. Its has helped determine the universe's age, the identity of quasars, and the existence of dark energy.
- 1994 FDA approves the first genetically engineered food – FlavrSavr tomatoes.
- 1995 The first microbial genomic sequence H. influenzae is published by Craig Venter, Hamilton Smith, Claire Fraser, and colleagues at TIGR.
- 1996 WebTV is invented in 1996 by Diba Inc and Zenith Electronics, who produce and market the first WebTV sets.
- 2001 Apple introduces the iPod, created under project codename Dulcimer.
- 2001 Fuel cell bike is invented by Aprilia.
- 2002 Nano-tex - nanotechnology wearable fabrics are invented by Nano-tex LLC.
- 2003 iTunes Music Store is created.
- 2005 Microsoft Xbox 360 hits the market in two setups--a scaled-down "core" system and the everything-but-the-kitchen-sink model, with a hard drive, wireless controller and a media remote.
- 2005 YouTube is invented by Steve Chen, Chad Hurley, and Jawed Karim as a destination to watch and share original videos worldwide through the Web. It eventually sold for \$1.65B to Google.