

Whose Crazy Idea Was That?

奇思妙想

初中二年级适用

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Whose Crazy Idea Was That?

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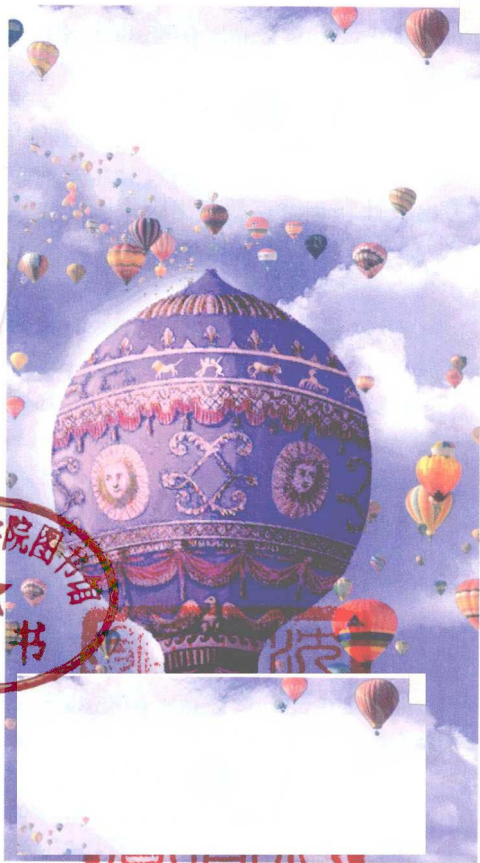
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审订



世界上有许多伟大的发明，比如爱迪生发明的电灯泡和留声机，莱特兄弟发明的滑翔机。然而，有些发明也许你未必很了解，比如你知道冰棍和炸薯片是怎么发明的吗？降落伞、牛仔裤和呼啦圈的发明灵感又来自哪里？除了这些伟大的发明，书中还讲述了一些生动有趣的奇思妙想，比如“能洗盘子的餐桌”、“食物弹射器”，让人忍俊不禁。在生活中，你是否也有这样或那样的奇思妙想呢？说不定将来的某一天，你的奇思妙想也会变成现实！

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前 言

由于近年来在中考和高考的英语科目中，阅读部分都出现了一定比例的科普文章，广大师生在英语课外阅读的训练中越来越重视此类阅读材料。根据这一需求，中国电力出版社世纪东方外语部从美国著名的杂志社和教育出版公司引进出版了这套非小说类英语分级读物——阅读空间·英汉双语主题阅读。这套读物共58本，其中初中版18本，高中版40本。

本套丛书是“阅读空间·英汉双语主题阅读”的初中版，共18种，分为3个级别，每级6种。丛书原版荣获美国2003年非小说类图书“杰出成果奖”。这套趣味科普英语分级读物融知识性、趣味性、启发性为一体，循序渐进地引导学生在愉快的阅读、思考、练习的过程中逐步提高英语阅读能力和思维能力。其特点是以动物、植物、运动、探险、发明等专题百科知识为线索，兼具知识性和趣味性，让学生在探索知识的过程中掌握英语，在学习英语的同时开阔视野，提高学习英语的积极性。

与同类图书相比，本套丛书的特点是**文章篇幅短小精悍、行文轻松幽默**。由于对非英语国家的学习者，科普文章在单词上有一定的难度，所以丛书严格地控制了每本书的篇幅长度，约为1500-2000个单词，以尽量避免读者在阅读过程中产生挫折感。丛书采用**国际流行开本，彩色印刷，图文并茂，而且题材广泛，话题新奇有趣**，从爱迪生和达芬奇的伟大发明、古往今来人类对密码的应用，到神秘的百慕大三角、物种灭绝、灾难逃生、极限运动，等等。火星人真的曾经登陆地球吗？谁在月亮上发现了蓝色独角兽？复活节岛上的巨型石像是从哪里来的？对所有这些疑问，读者都可以在书中找到答案。书中不仅配有大量真实的**照片**，还穿插了许多幽默的**卡通图画**，让读者在学习语言、掌握知识的过程中，感受绝对的**轻松和愉悦**！

这套出版物的目标是既要让读者体会到如何运用课堂学到的英语恰如其分地描述丰富多彩的大千世界，又要帮助读者避免在泛读中初次接触新鲜话题时被生僻的或专业的词汇所难倒。因此，我们在改编的过程中为全书配了**中译文**，并根据新课标的大纲词汇表对**超纲词汇**和**大纲词汇**作了**双语注释**，相信读者能够在循序渐进的阅读中迅速提高词汇量，有效地夯实英语语言基础，早日自如地用英语去交流。

为了促进中小学英语阅读教学，我们基于华中师范大学鲁子问教授提出的“英语教育动态真实原则”，设计了国家教育部专项任务项目“中小学英语教育动态真实原则推广性实验”的子课题——“中小学英语真实阅读教学推广实验”。课题组将基于中国电力出版社出版的、中国教育学会外语教学专业委员会推荐的“阅读空间”系列读物，组织各地中小学英语教研员和教师，全面参与课题实验，为探索适合我国中小学的英语阅读教学新途径而积极尝试。

这是一套将英语、趣味和科普完美结合的优秀读物！同学们，让我们一起开始这轻松、快乐的阅读之旅吧！

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The Wacky World of Inventions

There's no doubt about it. Some people have crazy ideas for inventions.

Is it your job to clear the table of dirty dishes after dinner? Then you need a “dishwashing dinner table”. There's no need to **clear away** the mess — just **flip** the table over and wash the dishes right there.

Believe it or not, someone really did **come up with** this mad invention! And there are many more ideas just as crazy as this one.

奇妙的发明世界

毫无疑问，许多人都有发明的奇思妙想。

晚饭后是不是由你来收拾餐桌？那么你需要一张“能洗盘子的餐桌”。

你不必去收拾狼籍一片的餐桌——只要把桌子翻过来，盘子就能自动洗干净。

不论你相信与否，的确有人想出了这种奇异的发明，而且还有更多诸如此类的奇思妙想。

Notes

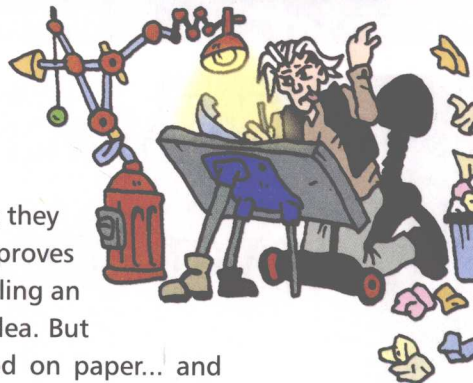
clear away: remove sth. from a place. 移走

mess: dirty condition. 脏乱

flip: turn over or around. 翻转

come up with: find or produce (a solution, etc.). 提出，想出

Back to the Drawing Board



Most inventors apply for a **patent** when they think they have a good idea. A patent is a legal document that proves who owns an invention. It stops other people from stealing an idea for twenty years. After that, anyone can use the idea. But the idea is only the beginning. Some ideas look good on paper... and that's just where they stay. Would you want to use these three ideas that didn't make it?

返回画板

大多数发明者在有了一个好的创想后会申请专利。专利是证明某项发明为发明者所拥有的法律文件。它能防止别人窃取发明者的发明创造，并保护发明专利达20年。20年后，任何人都可以使用这项发明。但创想仅仅是个开始，有些创想在理论上看起来很好，但仅仅是纸上谈兵。以下三种创想你会采用吗？

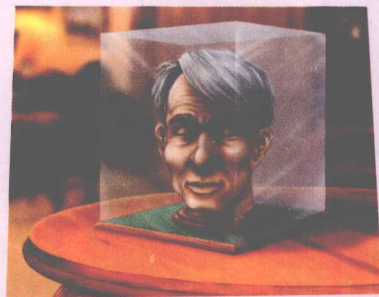
Idea 1 创想1

Have you lost a lot of food fights lately?
You need a machine to **propel** food into a crowd.
你最近是否胃口欠佳？
那么你需要一种能把食物弹入你口中的机器。



Idea 2 创想2

Wondering what to do with a dead relative?
Put them inside a large glass block. If the block is too big for your room, you can use a smaller glass block for the head.
你想知道如何处理死去的亲人吗？
把他们放入一个玻璃箱内。如果你的房间不够大，你可用一个小一点儿的把死者的头放进去。



Notes

patent: official document giving the holder the sole right to make, use or sell an invention for a set period of time. 专利

propel: cause to move forward. 推进

Idea 3 创想了

Do you have problems getting up in the morning? What about:

- a bed that automatically ejects you when the alarm goes off?
- an alarm that pours water on you?
- an alarm clock that hits you?

你早上是否不愿起床? 试试下面的方法:

- 当闹钟铃响时, 能自动把你弹起来的床。
- 能向你泼水的闹钟。
- 能击打你的闹钟。



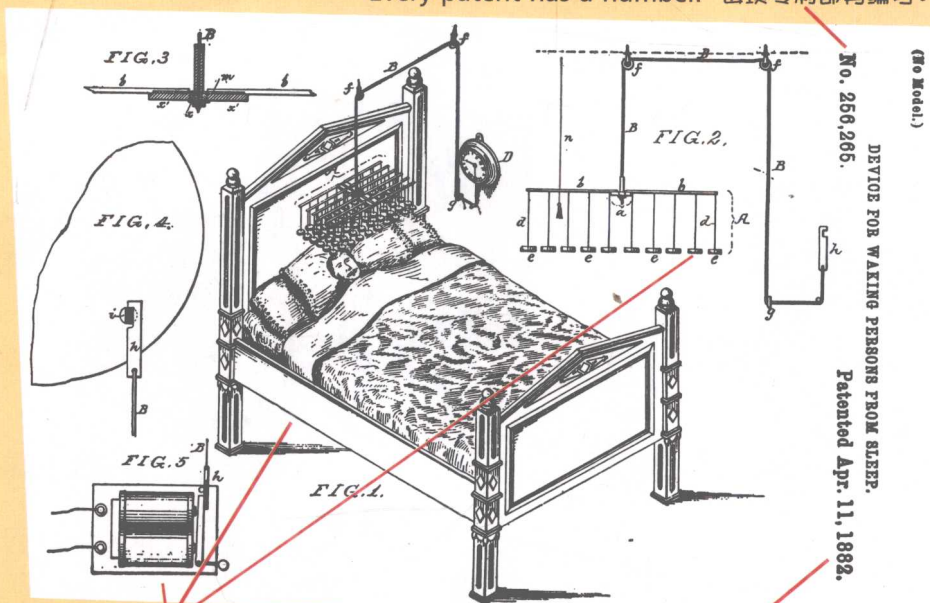
An Alarm Clock That Strikes... You

To apply for a patent, an inventor must draw a **diagram** and write a description of his or her invention. Not all patents are granted, so the inventor has to give plenty of information to **convince** the **Patent Office** that the invention is new and useful.

Every patent has a number. 每项专利都有编号。

一只能击打你的闹钟

为了申请专利, 发明者必须画出图解并对他或她的发明作出描述。并不是所有的专利申请都会得到批准, 因此发明者必须向专利局提供大量信息以说明该项发明新颖并且实用。



Technical drawings show different parts of the invention. 技术图解显示发明的不同部分。

The year the patent was granted. 专利获得批准的年份。

Notes

eject: be thrown from. 弹射

pour: send forth in a flood. 倾, 倒

diagram: a drawing to show how sth. works. 图示

convince: bring by the use of evidence to firm belief. 使……信服

patent office: the government that grants patent. 专利局

Ahead of Their Time

Sometimes ideas for inventions sound crazy because they are ahead of their time. One **communication** idea that people thought was crazy when it first appeared is now used all over the world. The idea was the basis of the first fax machine, and it was invented **way back** in 1856.

发明者的超前性

有时，一些发明创想听起来很离奇，因为它们超越了自己的时代。有一项通讯发明，在它刚出现时许多人认为太离奇了，但现在却在全世界普遍应用。这个创想就是发明第一台传真机的基础，它的发明可追溯到1856年。



Caselli called his machine a pantelegraph. It was almost 2 m tall.
卡塞利把他的机器叫做有线传真电报，它大约有两米高。

How Does It Work?

传真机是如何工作的？

- 1 A message is written with ink on a metal plate.
用墨水把电文写在金属板上。



- 2 The plate is placed under a pendulum.
金属板被放置在一个摇摆器下。



- 3 The pendulum's metal tip swings over the plate, touching the surface.
摇摆器的金属尖在金属板上方摆动并接触金属板表面。



- 4 When the tip touches an uninked section, it causes an electrical circuit to be completed.
当金属尖接触到没有墨水的部分时，电流回路会被接通。

Notes

communication: the technology used in transmitting messages 通讯技术

way back: a long time ago. 很久以前

pendulum: a body suspended so that it swings. 摆

electrical circuit: the path through which electricity flows. 电流回路



Q: What was the best invention in the world?

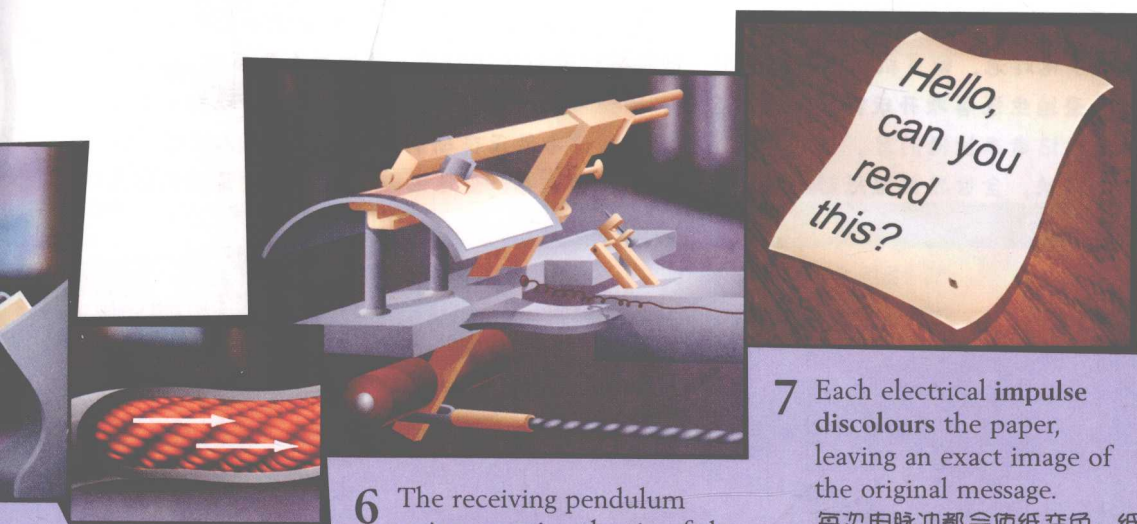
A: The wheel. It got everything rolling!

问：世界上最好的发明是什么？

答：轮子。它能让所有的东西滚动起来！

Giovanni Caselli, an Italian **priest**, invented a large, heavy machine that could send and receive an actual copy of written notes or pictures. His neighbours called him crazy. Some people thought he was using an evil form of magic. The French government did use the machine for a few years, but then it disappeared. Maybe it cost too much money. Or maybe it was just a good idea ahead of its time.

乔瓦尼·卡塞利是一位意大利牧师，他发明了一台笨重的机器来发送和接收文字记录或图片。他的邻居认为他疯了，有些人认为他在使用某种邪恶的魔法。法国政府在使用了这台机器几年后，也不再使用了。也许是因为它太昂贵了，或者它仅仅是一个超越那个时代的好创意而已。



5 This sends power down a telegraph line to a pendulum on the receiving machine. 电流会把能量通过电线传给接收机上的摇摆器。

6 The receiving pendulum swings, causing the tip of the receiver to move over chemically treated paper. 接收机上的摇摆器引起接收机的尖端在经过化学处理的纸上移动。

7 Each electrical impulse discolours the paper, leaving an exact image of the original message. 每次电脉冲都会使纸变色，纸上留下的印迹同最初的电文一模一样。

Notes

priest: person performing religious duties in the Christian Church. 牧师；神父

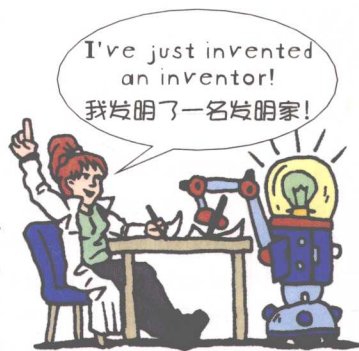
impulse: an impelling force. 动力

discolour: change the colour of sth. 使变色

Bright Lights

Patents can be granted on almost anything, from a flower to a rocket. And there's no limit on how many patents one person can hold. One very busy inventor was Thomas Edison. With his team of workers, he invented an electric **light bulb**, the **phonograph** and movie cameras. In all, he took out 1,093 patents — the world record!

Edison also liked a good joke. He was very famous and everything he did and said was news. He liked to give reporters interesting things to write about. In 1920 he told a reporter that he was working on a machine that could talk to the dead. Newspapers all over the world reported the story. A few years later, Edison admitted he had **made it up!**



明亮的灯光

从一朵花到一支火箭，几乎所有的东西都可以被申请专利，而且一个人拥有专利的数目是不受限制的。有一位非常忙碌的发明家叫托马斯·爱迪生，他带领自己的工作队发明了电灯泡、留声机和电影摄影机。他拥有的专利达1093项，是世界上最多的。

爱迪生还喜欢开玩笑。他太出名了，因而他的一言一行都是新闻。他喜欢把有趣的事情告诉记者来让他们写。1920年，他告诉一位记者他正在研制一台可以同死人交谈的机器。很快，全世界的报纸都报道了这件事。几年以后，爱迪生承认那只不过是他编造出来的。

Edison said that out of all his inventions, he liked the phonograph best. He worked on it for 52 years. This photo was taken in 1888.

爱迪生说，在他所有的发明中，他最喜欢留声机。他花了52年来研制留声机。这张照片拍摄于1888年。

Notes

light bulb: an electric light. 白炽灯
phonograph: the early name for record player. 留声机(早期的录音机)

make up: invent a story or a piece of information. 虚构; 编造



Edison's motion picture making studio in 1890. The roof could be opened and the whole building rotated to get the best sunlight.

这是1890年爱迪生的电影制作工作室。工作室的屋顶能打开，而且整座房子都可以旋转以获得最好的光照。



When designing his light bulb, Edison filled 40,000 notebook pages with drawings and notes. 爱迪生在设计电灯泡时，共记满了40 000页的图解和笔记。

More Everyday Inventions 更多的日常发明

YEAR 年代	INVENTION 发明	INVENTOR 发明者	COUNTRY 国家
3000 BC (公元前)	marbles 弹子游戏	unknown inventor 发明者不详	Egypt 埃及
AD 100 (公元)	comics 连环漫画	unknown inventor 发明者不详	Rome 罗马
200	wheelbarrow 独轮车	Chuko Liang 诸葛亮	China 中国
1281	eyeglasses 眼镜	Silvano Armato 西尔维纳欧·阿莫图	Italy 意大利
1642	calculator 计算器	Blaise Pascal 布莱斯·帕斯卡	France 法国
1759	roller skates 旱冰鞋	Joseph Merlin 约瑟夫·默林	Belgium 比利时
1762	sandwich 三明治	the Earl of Sandwich 三明治伯爵	England 英国
1770	toothbrush 牙刷	William Addis 威廉·阿迪斯	England 英国
1855	refrigerator 电冰箱	James Harrison 詹姆斯·哈瑞森	Australia 澳大利亚
1901	vacuum cleaner 吸尘器	H. Cecil Booth 塞西·布斯	England 英国
1902	windscreen wiper 汽车雨刮	Mary Anderson 玛丽·安德森	United States 美国
1957	correction fluid 涂改液	Bette Nesmith Graham 贝蒂·内史密斯·格雷汉姆	United States 美国
1978	bionic ear 仿生耳	Graeme Clark 格雷姆·克拉克	Australia 澳大利亚

Notes

motion picture: a movie. 电影
rotate: turn around on a center. 旋转



How Did They Think of That?

It's gooey like rubber. It bounces and it stretches. Play with it, or use it to take dog hair off the furniture. It's Silly Putty.

The name is a bit of a **giveaway** because, just as it sounds, Silly Putty wasn't invented on purpose! It was the stuff left over after engineers worked with other materials. No one knew what to do with it, until someone realised you could do a lot with it!

Some inventions are like that. Someone thinks of a new way to use something that has been around for a long time.

他们是如何想到这些发明的?

它像橡胶一样发粘，有弹性，可以用来玩或用来粘去家具上的狗毛。它就是弹性橡皮泥。

这个名字听起来有点儿像赠品，因为它是人们无意中发明的。橡皮泥是工程师在制造其他原料时剩下的废料。没有人知道它能用来做什么，直到有人意识到它可以用来做许多事情。

有些发明就是这样被创造出来的。有些人会想出新办法来使身边闲置很久的东西得以利用。

Notes

gooey: sticky. 粘的

bounce: spring back after hitting a surface. 弹起

stretch: be elastic. 有弹性(张力)

giveaway: sth. given away at no charge. 赠品

Hooping It Up

As long ago as 1,000 BC, children in ancient Greece and Rome played with hoops made from **vines**. In colonial days in America, children rolled hoops along the streets, guiding them with sticks. Australian children used bamboo hoops in sports classes at school. But in 1957 the idea was taken one step further. That was the year the Hula Hoop, a hollow plastic hoop, appeared in stores.



This hoopy toy became a huge success. People held **contests** to see who could **twirl** the most hoops around their waists, arms, wrists, legs, feet — even around their heads and necks. But the company that made them was not able to get a patent for such an ancient idea. So soon others were making Spin-a-Hoops and Hoop-d-dos. It is **estimated** that between 60 and 100 million hoops were sold in two years!

让呼啦圈转起来

早在公元前1000年，古希腊和罗马的孩子就用藤条制成的圆环玩耍。在殖民时代的美国，孩子们沿街用木棍引导滚圈玩耍。澳大利亚的孩子用竹制的圆环上体育课。到了1957年，这个创想被改进了一大步。就在这一年，呼啦圈——一种空心塑料圈在商场里出现了。

这种圆环形玩具的问世获得了巨大成功。人们举行比赛看谁能把最多的呼啦圈绕在腰部、手臂、手腕、腿部、脚部，甚至是在头部和脖子上。但是制造呼啦圈的公司并不能为这一古老创想申请专利。因此，很快其他公司便制出了各种名目的类似产品。估计在两年之内售出的呼啦圈在6000万到1亿之间！

Notes

vine: a weak-stemmed plant. 藤
contest: a competition. 竞赛
twirl: twist or wind around. 缠绕
estimate: calculate. 推测；估计



UFPT

Unidentified Flying Pie Tin

不明飞行物——馅饼烤盘