Grade: 5th, 8th
Subject: Social Studies, Computer Technology
Time Required: 2 class periods
Author: Perry F. Louden, Jr., Rockvale Middle School, Rutherford County Schools

OVERVIEW
This lesson will explore various inventors and innovations, how inventions are developed, and how they changed people’s lives.

CURRICULUM STANDARDS
5th Grade Social studies
5.05 Examine the contributions and impact of inventors on American society, including: Alexander Graham Bell, George Washington Carver, and Thomas Edison.

8th Grade Computer Technology
8.6.2. Students will employ technology in the development of strategies for solving problems in the real world.

INVENTORS & INNOVATIONS
- Alexander Graham Bell (part I and part II)
- American automobile racing
- Daniel H. Burnham
- Andrew Carnegie
- George Washington Carver
- Corps of Engineers
- Fred A. Dobson
- Amelia Earhart
- Thomas Alva Edison
- Henry Ford
- John P. Holland
- Elias Howe
- Ice Cream Cone
- Samuel F.B. Morse
- New York Subway System
- Benjamin Franklin Palmer
- John A. Roebling
- H.J. Rogers
- Washington Monument
- Frank Lloyd Wright
- Wilbur and Orville Wright

City Hall subway station, New York [between 1900 and 1906]
**PROCEDURE**

**Step 1**
On the overhead, look at the Library of Congress image of the Assembly Line. Discuss the following questions:
- Who was the innovator of the assembly line?
- What problem(s) was he attempting to solve?
- What knowledge would he need to develop the assembly line?
- What resources are involved?

**Step 2**
Have students select an inventor/innovation from the list. Have students begin their research by visiting the America’s Story entry for their selection and read all the information provided.

**Step 3**
Students will need to complete the worksheet with the information available.

**Step 4**
Direct students to History.com or MIT Inventor of the Week to search for more information regarding their inventor and invention to complete the report. Additionally, you may allow them to use an encyclopedia or other books from your school library.

**Step 5**
Students will then create a PowerPoint presentation about their inventor or innovation from the information on their worksheets, including images from the Library of Congress. Direct students to the Prints and Photographs Online Catalog. From there, they can type their inventor’s name or innovation in the search box. They must have 10 slides, beginning with a title slide and ending with a slide that cites all sources used.

**Day 2—Step 6**
Have each student give a presentation to the class regarding their inventor/innovation.