

Background Information about Inventions

Year	Historical Event	Invention	Background Information
1849	California Gold Rush	Blue jeans	Levi jeans were made for the miners, who required a sturdy fabric for their pants so that the rocks would not so easily damage the fabric.
1867		Typewriter	The typewriter freed office workers from the time-consuming task of writing all correspondence by hand.
1902	President Roosevelt's hunting experience and interest in nature	Teddy bear	The Teddy bear was reportedly named for Theodore Roosevelt, due to his compassion for bears and his interest in nature.
1928		Mickey Mouse	Entertainment --- consider the history of cartoon animation and the rise of moving pictures.
1945	The end of World War II	Atomic bomb	The United States dropped the bomb on two Japanese cities, hastening the end of the war.
1950	The Space Race	Frisbee	The Frisbee is said to have capitalized on the public's interest in space travel and flying saucers.
1958		Hula hoop	This toy eventually evolved into the rings now used for fitness exercises. The plastic first used in hula hoops led Phillips Petroleum into the development of new plastics with far-reaching effects.
1959		Barbie doll	Created as the first teenage fashion doll. Often controversial, particularly during the women's movement, and often viewed as a female stereotype.
1976		Apple computer	Issued in the age of the computer. Widely used in schools.
1977		Star Wars action figures	Developed due to the phenomenal success of the <i>Star Wars</i> movie trilogy.
1983	Tied to economic growth and development, as well as competition	Nintendo	Developed in Japan in 1983 and introduced into the American market in 1985. This powerful gaming console was scaled down to the portable Game Boy in 1989.
1993		Beanie Babies	A child's plush toy that became collectible with record sales.