

Best Inventions of 2024



Every year, TIME magazine publishes a list of the year's best inventions. TIME for Kids has chosen nine of them here.

LEXILE: 820L

SCIENCE (NGSS) STANDARD: Engineering Design

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.4, W.6-8.2

ENGAGE THE READER

Show students the article “Best Inventions of 2024.” Ask them what they think should qualify something as a “best invention.” Should it be something that helps the largest number of people? Should it be something completely new? Make a list of factors on the board. Narrow these down to the top four or five. Can students think of any inventions that would meet more than one of these criteria? As they read the article, have them rank each invention by the factors on the class list.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- What does *eco-friendly* mean? Do you think it's an important factor for a best invention?
- Why do you think Bimodal Elevate made the list? Do you think it's being used for its intended purpose?
- Do you agree that the inventions on this list are some of the best? Explain why or why not.

EXTEND LEARNING

Have students talk to a partner about why each invention made TIME's Best Inventions of 2024 list, based on the ranking system the class created. Bring the class back together and explain that TIME editors use factors including “originality, efficacy, ambition, and impact.” Discuss what each of those factors means and how they align with what the class came up with. Have them look through TIME's full list and pick out their own top nine or 10.

Draw students' attention back to the section “Dazzling Disc.” Tell them that the Frisbee started as a cake or pie tin that was thrown around by a family. They can read more about its history at ti.me/frisbee-history. Discuss how it has evolved since then (*it's now made of plastic, and has LED lights, etc.*). Invite students to either update a classic toy or design a game or toy using common household objects. Have students share their inventions with the class.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.

1. B (RI.3) **2. A** (RI.4) **3. C** (RI.8) **4. D** (RI.9) **5. B** (RI.1)

To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

6. D (RI.2) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.1)

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week’s cover story, “Best Inventions of 2024,” to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, use the back of this page.

<p>1. What do Filter Caps do that makes water from a well, pond, or river drinkable?</p> <p>A. They attach to water bottles.</p> <p>B. They contain a chemical mixture that filters out contaminants.</p> <p>C. They help people find clean water.</p> <p>D. They seal bottles to prevent bacteria from getting in.</p>	<p>4. Both the sections “Grow and Glow” and “Dazzling Disc” introduce inventions that</p> <p>A. help retrieve lost items.</p> <p>B. are eco-friendly.</p> <p>C. are fun to play with.</p> <p>D. produce light.</p>
<p>2. Which words in the section “Grow and Glow” are used as synonyms?</p> <p>A. <i>glowing</i> and <i>luminous</i></p> <p>B. <i>normal</i> and <i>magical</i></p> <p>C. <i>roses</i> and <i>petunias</i></p> <p>D. <i>science</i> and <i>bioluminescent</i></p>	<p>5. Why do Digit bots work separately from people?</p> <p>A. They cannot communicate.</p> <p>B. They are kept separate or safety reasons.</p> <p>C. Digit can outperform people.</p> <p>D. Digit can only do basic tasks.</p>
<p>3. What evidence does Chris Stokel-Walker provide that the Bimotal Elevate is not just for fun?</p> <p>A. It’s a palm-size motor that turns any standard pedal bike into a powerful electric bike.</p> <p>B. It can get your bike up to 20 miles an hour.</p> <p>C. Search-and-rescue teams are using it to motorize gurneys.</p> <p>D. The motor clips onto the wheel of a regular bike.</p>	<p>6. What could be an another heading for the section “Inclusive Exercise”?</p> <p>A. “Pop a Wheelie”</p> <p>B. “Wheelchairs for All”</p> <p>C. “Jogging in Place”</p> <p>D. “Wheelchair Workouts”</p>

7. If you were an inventor, which issue or cause would you create an invention for? Why?
