



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Inventions We Can Do Without

An activity of "The National Day Parade's biggest sensation"

Read "The National Day Parade's biggest sensation" (page 24, *What's Up* August 2026) to learn about the amazing features of the National Stadium where the NDP was held. Several of them are amazing high-tech inventions.

1a) Watch this video about some old inventions in the past that did not take off.

Old Inventions that never caught on

➤ https://youtu.be/KCz_J3eDU4?si=oGS4f9Ig58vY53VC (OddityMall, 31 Aug 2021)

1b) Discuss with a partner:

- Which invention in the video did you like the most? Why?
- Which invention surprised you the most? Why?
- Which invention seemed the most useful?
- Which seemed the least useful?
- Why do you think some of these inventions failed to become popular?
- Why do you think some inventions succeed while others disappear?

2a) Consider the inventions ↓ and fill in the table. In your view, which is the most useful?

Invention	How it helps us	Usefulness rating (<i>Circle one number</i>)
Televisions		Least 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Most
Microwave ovens		Least 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Most
Fans		Least 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Most
Air-conditioners		Least 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Most
Washing machines		Least 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Most
Irons		Least 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Most
Smartphones		Least 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Most

2b) Compare your answers. Did you and your partner give very different ratings?

3a) Imagine if you had a special DELETE BUTTON. Press it and one invention disappears from the world forever! Choose ONE invention from these ↓ (or suggest your own).

televisions	hair dryers	air-conditioners	smartphones	calculators
electric toothbrushes	hand-held mini fans	roller shoes for kids	digital pets	hand-held squishy toys

Which invention did you choose to delete? _____

3c) What are the pros and cons of deleting it? Jot them down in point form.

Pros	Cons

3d) Would you still delete it after weighing the pros and cons? Explain why.

4a) You press the delete button and POOF! This invention disappears from the whole world! Imagine a day like this from someone else's perspective. Choose one of these and look through that person's lenses.

- ☐ parent ☐ grandparent ☐ teacher ☐ shopkeeper ☐ tourist
- ☐ child ☐ cleaner ☐ doctor ☐ bus driver ☐ _____

4b) Write a diary from this person's point of view:

Dear Diary,

What a strange day! Yesterday, _____ disappeared from the world! This morning, _____

Later, _____

I never realised that _____

One surprising thing was _____

If I could bring _____ back, I would/ would not, because _____

What a day!