



Two Patents, One Pending

Come up with three inventions: two real patented inventions and one made-up invention. Your goal is to make the fake one sound believable enough to fool another innovator! For each invention, include a name, a short description, and what it's used for.

Name:

What is it and what it is used for?

Name:

What is it and what it is used for?

Name:

What is it and what it is used for?

Lesson Title: Two Patents and an Idea: Spot the Fake!

Grade Level: 4–8

Duration: 45–60 minutes

Objective:

Students will learn about real inventions and patents while exercising creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking to develop a believable fake invention.

Materials Needed:

- Worksheet with invention directions
 - Internet access or printed invention cards for reference
 - Chart paper or digital slide for presenting inventions
 - Markers or presentation tools
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Warm-Up (10 minutes):

Hook Question:

“What’s the weirdest invention you’ve ever heard of?”

Let students share a few responses.

Mini-Discussion:

Briefly explain what a patent is and show 2–3 surprising real inventions (e.g., banana-saver, pet rock, umbrella for shoes). Emphasize that inventions can be useful, silly, or unexpected—but they solve a problem or serve a purpose.

Activity Directions (25–30 minutes):

1. **Form Teams:** Divide students into small teams of 3–4.
2. **Invent & Research:**

- Find or recall **two real patented inventions** (can use devices, books, or printed examples).
- Create **one fake invention** that sounds real enough to trick the class.

3. **Worksheet Completion:**

- For **each** invention, write a **name**, **short description**, and **what it's used for**.
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Presentation & Guessing Game (15–20 minutes):

Each team presents their three inventions (in random order).

The class guesses which one is fake!

After guessing, the team reveals the answer.

Wrap-Up (Optional Exit Slip or Discussion):

- What made the fake inventions believable?
- What did you learn about how inventors think?
- How does creativity play a role in invention?