



GREAT INVENTIONS

THE BAND-AID



Many times, we don't stop to think about how important some inventions are that we use daily. We use them without thinking, believing that they have always existed. The truth is that some of them are not more than 100 years old. One of those inventions is the band-aid, also known as the sanitary adhesive strip, adhesive tape, bandage, or patch.



This invention is used to cover and heal small wounds. Yesterday, I needed one to cover a scrape I got when I fell playing football. The strips or bandages have an adhesive part that sticks to the skin and gauze that covers the wound to keep it from getting infected. Some of them even add medicine to control infections.

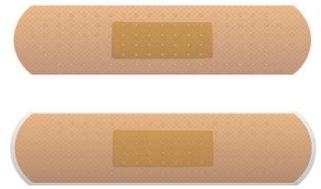


The band-aid was invented at the beginning of the 20th century by Earle Dickson, who worked at an American pharmaceutical company called Johnson & Johnson. He was born in 1892 in Tennessee and started working at this famous pharmaceutical company after he graduated from college.



Earle got married when he was young. His wife, Josephine, was not very skilled in the kitchen, cut herself frequently when cutting food with knives, and needed to cover the cuts. Unfortunately, the gauze did not last long and had to be changed often. Earle noticed this and got the idea to cover the gauze with an adhesive to keep it on.

After trying several prototypes, Earle showed his band-aid idea to one of his Johnson & Johnson bosses. They quickly gained a good reputation and success, so they decided to mass market it. They sold the band-aid in large quantities, which became an automatic way to get one quickly when needed.



To promote this new product and gain recognition quickly, they decided to give several boxes of this little invention to a group of Boy Scouts, which would popularize its use in the daily life of every family.



The success achieved in this sector of society rose so quickly that the sales of this product grew like foam. Other pharmaceutical companies also started to make them, and soon several companies were producing them.

They are used regularly throughout the world today and come in assorted colors, prices, and sizes. Some even have pictures of your favorite singers or television characters.



What about you? Have you ever used one? When? Why?



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Answer the questions.

1. What does the expression grew like foam mean in the text?
 - a. it became very popular
 - b. it had soap
 - c. it had little success
 - d. it sold a little
2. What is the synonym for band-aid?
 - a. adhesive strip
 - b. patch
 - c. adhesive dressing
 - d. All the answers are correct.
3. Why did Earle invent the adhesive strip?
 - a. His wife cooked a lot.
 - b. His wife used to cut herself in the kitchen.
 - c. He wanted to get rich.
 - d. He had a lot of free time.
4. Why do you think this invention succeeded and is still used today?
 - a. It is fast, prevents infections, and is easy to use.
 - b. It's very expensive.
 - c. If you're an adult, they don't let you use it; it's only for minors.
 - d. It smells good.
5. In what part of the text are the different types of adhesive strips explained?
 - a. the beginning
 - b. the middle
 - c. the end
 - d. It does not say.



Name _____

Date _____

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6. What is the main idea of the text?

- a. the use of the strips by the Boy Scouts
- b. the invention of band-aids
- c. Earle's great idea when creating the adhesive towel
- d. the creation of the foam



7. After reading the story, it can be deduced that _____.

- a. if you watch closely and have initiative, you can create great inventions.
- b. you can get rich if you work as little as possible.
- c. inventions are always very difficult and require a lot of money.
- d. the invention of the band-aid or adhesive strip is thousands of years old.

8. Who may need a band-aid or adhesive tape?

- a. People who have a cut on the skin.
- b. People who have a wound somewhere on their body.
- c. Children who have a scratch on their knees.
- d. All the answers are correct.

9. Why did Earle have to test several prototypes?

- a. He got bored and decided to try one with his wife Josephine.
- b. He didn't like any of the inventions he created.
- c. He had to verify that it worked properly, and the quality was adequate.
- d. His boss wouldn't let him create anything new.

10. Earle Dickson was born in Tennessee in 1882, and after graduating, began working at the pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson.

- a. True
- b. False