



# GREAT INVENTIONS

## THE REFRIGERATOR

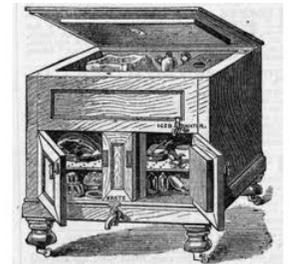


One summer afternoon, I came home and poured myself a glass of icy cold water. It was then that I started thinking about how much I take having a refrigerator at home for granted. What would happen if we didn't have a refrigerator at home? Does everyone have a refrigerator in their home? I decided to search on the internet to find information about this appliance. This is the information I found.



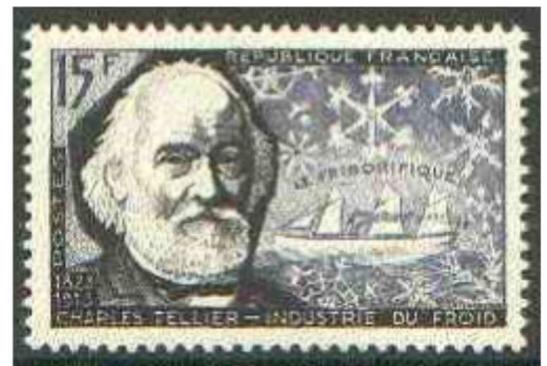
In other countries, it is called an icebox, fridge, cooler, or refrigerator. It is an indispensable appliance in every home.

The development of the refrigerator came from the contributions of many devoted inventors over 100 years, from 1750 until 1850. In 1856, James Harrison, a British journalist who had emigrated to Australia, got a patent for a vapor compression system using ether.



Harrison built his first ice maker in 1851, on the banks of the Barwon River, at Rocky Point, Geelong, Victoria. Harrison also introduced a commercial vapor compression refrigeration system to the breweries. By 1861, a dozen of Harrison's refrigeration systems were being used.

In 1876, the French engineer Charles Tellier prepared the first ship to transport chilled meat using a methyl-ether refrigeration system. With this system, it was possible to transport refrigerated meat between Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Rouen, France. Because of this invention, people could eat meat from South America in Europe.



The refrigerator with an engine on the bottom of the cabinet was invented by Alfred Mellowes in 1916. William C. Durant bought Mellowes' refrigerators and company in 1918 and started the Frigidaire Company. His Frigidaire Company began to mass-produce these refrigerators.

In 1927, General Electric designed a model called the Monitor-Top. In this one, the engine was on top of the refrigerator cabinet. There were more than one million units manufactured.



In the early 1920s, a domestic refrigerator cost about \$600. At that time, it was more expensive than a Ford Model T automobile.

The refrigerators in the 60s had locks on their doors, as seen in the photo on the right. The locks were eliminated to prevent accidents, such as getting locked inside.



After having read all this, do you think you could live without your refrigerator?



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# THE REFRIGERATOR



Answer the questions.

- What else are refrigerators called?
  - fridge and Model T
  - fridge and icebox
  - fridge and chiller
  - cold box and refrigerator
- When did James Harrison patent his cooling system?
  - 1750
  - 1850
  - 1851
  - 1856
- Where did Harrison build his first ice maker?
  - in his lab
  - in a brewery
  - on the banks of a river
  - in a desert of Australia
- How many systems did Harrison make in 1861?
  - Two
  - 12
  - 100
  - None
- Who prepared the first ship to transport refrigerated meat?
  - James Harrison
  - Alfred Mellows
  - Charles Tellier
  - William C. Durant
- The ship transported refrigerated meat from \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Buenos Aires to Rouen
  - Rouen to Buenos Aires
  - France to Argentina
  - Rouen to France
- When did Durant buy the refrigerator business from Mellows?
  - 1916
  - 1918
  - 1920
  - 1927
- Where was the engine for the Monitor-Top refrigerator?
  - It did not have an engine.
  - on the side
  - on the bottom
  - above the refrigerator
- In 1920, a refrigerator was more expensive than \_\_\_\_\_.
  - the Frigidaire Company
  - a Monitor-Top
  - a Ford Model T
  - a refrigerated ship
- Why did they stop using locks on refrigerators?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_