

NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

STEP 1

Introduction/individual work/group work/ 30 minutes

1. Read the following text individually. Which of these inventions do you think are fictional? Discuss your opinion with the members of your group

Science News

TAKE PART IN OUR READERS' POLL. READ ABOUT THREE AMAZING INVENTIONS AND SEND AN SMS TO 0563 175 443 WITH THE NUMBER OF YOUR FAVOURITE.



1 SAYA

Schoolchildren in one primary school in Tokyo, Japan have got an unusual new teacher. Her name is Saya, and she is a humanoid robot. Saya can speak several languages and give students homework. If they behave badly, the robot will get angry. Saya is part of the Japanese government's plan to introduce robots into daily life. Humanoid robots are already working as traffic directors and salespeople in Japan, and scientists are developing a robot nurse. If the government's plan succeeds, there will also be a robot in every home by the year 2015.



2 THE INVISIBILITY CLOAK

In Ancient Greek mythology, Perseus wore an invisibility helmet to hide from Medusa so he could kill her. Thousands of years later in England, Harry Potter used an invisibility cloak to escape from his enemies. Now, invisibility is no longer a fantasy. It's all about light. Look at the textbook on your desk. You are really looking at the light reflecting off the textbook. When the light reaches your eyes, your brain creates an image of the textbook. But if someone stopped the light from reaching the textbook, it wouldn't reflect from it and you wouldn't be able to see it at all. That's the idea behind an invisibility cloak; it uses special materials to prevent light from hitting an object. So if you had worn an invisibility cloak the last time you were late for school, no one would have noticed!

3 THE CYBUG

*Don't you wish that you could be a fly on the wall,
A creepy little sneaky little fly on the wall?
All my precious secrets, yeah,
You'd know them all.*

The lyrics above are from *Fly on the Wall*, a song by Miley Cyrus. The person in the song couldn't become a fly on the wall, but if she had had a Cybug, she would have heard lots of secrets. The Cybug was invented by scientists in the USA. It's a real insect with a special microchip in it. The microchip lets someone control the insect and send it to dangerous places. The insect can also carry a tiny camera and other equipment to record information and transmit it.



False friends succeeds

2. Check your answers on these internet sites.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/4942136/Robot-teacher-that-can-take-the-register-and-get-angry.html>

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/invisibility-cloak.htm>

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STEP 2: The lab

Task 1/group work/ 30 minutes

1. You are a group of engineers who are trying to find the best invention of the year.
2. Give your invention:
 - A name
 - The reason why you have chosen this name
 - What is it for
 - Who may be interested in such product
 - The price of it
3. Choose your sales representative
 - Which characteristics do you think a sales representative must have? Discuss in groups.
 - Choose among the members of your group.

STEP 3: The Investor interview

Task 2/group work/individual work/class work/ 60 minutes

1. Revise in group all the details of your invention. Make sure you have strong points to defend it.
2. The sales representative of your group has to go in front of the class where the investor and the other contestants will be waiting for you. You can take anything you need such as pictures to show him/her that your team is the best. It is an important moment in your life! Good luck!

3. The rest of the team will have to listen to the other contestants. Which of the contestants do you think is the best? Pay close attention.
4. After having heard all the contestants, the investor will probably ask you for help. Give him/her your opinion and the reasons for your choice.
5. The investor will also ask you to vote for the best option. Count the votes for your group.
6. And the winner is....!! The investor has the last word!

STEP 4

Follow-up.

1. When you get home, go on internet and find surprising inventions. Comment on the next class.