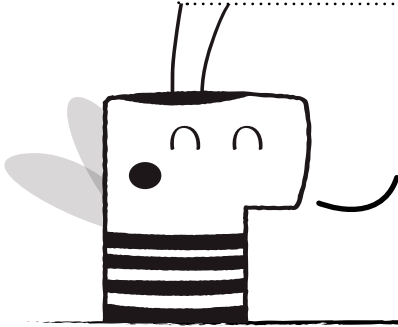


The life of an inventor: Mary Anderson

Name: _____

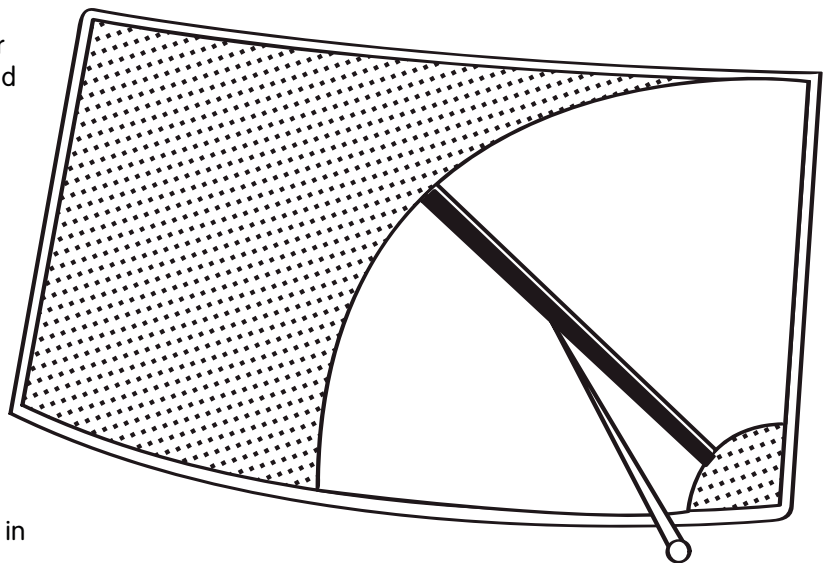
Group: _____



Research on women inventors have revealed the history of the entrepreneur who invented the windscreen wiper device, essential in the making of cars today.

This is Mary Anderson's cronology:

- 1866** — She was born in Alabama.
- 1889** — She moves to Birmingham with her mother and sisters, the three of them were successful in the building industry.
- 1898** — After her experience as a business woman in the building industry, she moves to California, she buys a ranch and where she works on livestock and wine business.
- 1902** — She comes back to Birmingham to look after her aunt who was ill. Her aunt kept 17 heavy wooden logs in her room, when she dies, they discovered that there were jewels and gold inside the logs. This surprise and the family business career leaves Mary in an outstanding economic situation.
- 1903** — In New York, Mary sees how the tram driver has to get off the tram to wipe the water and snow off the windscreen with a cloth. She realizes they need something faster to do this and she thinks of a sheet of cork to wipe the windscreen which can be turned on from the inside.
- 1905** — Without listening to the people who say it would distract the drivers, she tries it and she register her new invention: the windscreen wiper.
- 1908** — Henry Ford installs windscreen wipers in all the models that come out of his factory. The first model to have it was the Ford T. The windscreen wiper is widely used in the car industry.
- 1916** — The windscreen wiper is installed in all cars.
- 1953** — Mary Anderson dies in Alabama.



① WE ARE CURIOUS

1. Who was Henry Ford? What is Ford T? 


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2. Nowadays, there are new trams in some cities. Many trams had already disappeared. Why do you think they are back in the cities?

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3. Make a short list of some of the inventions discovered by women. 

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4. Show how car security measures have changed in your area in the past few years: seat belts, children car seats... Make a list of the changes. 

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