

Medieval Inventions

Week 15 • Monday • Clever Ideas That Changed the World

This Week's Goals

This week you will learn:

- What an invention is and why people invent
- Amazing medieval inventions like windmills and clocks
- How the printing press changed the world
- Which medieval inventions you still use today

Reading Time

An **invention** is something new that someone creates to solve a problem. People in the Middle Ages were great inventors!

They built **windmills** that used wind power to grind grain into flour. They made **mechanical clocks** that rang bells so towns knew what time it was. They invented **eyeglasses** to help people see, and the heavy **plow** that helped farmers grow much more food.

Inventions did not come from magic. They came from people noticing a problem and asking, 'How can I fix this?' This week, we will meet the clever inventions of the Middle Ages — and you will even invent something yourself!

Reading Questions

1. What is an invention?

2. What did windmills do?

3. Why were mechanical clocks helpful for towns?

4. Where do inventions come from?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

invention

windmill

clock

eyeglasses

plow

problem

Invention and Problem Match

Match each invention to the problem it solved. Write the letter: A (hard to see), B (grinding grain by hand), C (not knowing the time), D (hard soil to farm).

Invention	Problem it solved (A-D)
Windmill	
Mechanical clock	
Eyeglasses	
Heavy plow	

True or False

Write T for true or F for false in each circle.

- ☐ An invention is something new that solves a problem.
- ☐ Windmills used water power to grind grain.
- ☐ Mechanical clocks rang bells to tell the time.
- ☐ Eyeglasses were invented in the Middle Ages.
- ☐ The heavy plow helped farmers grow more food.
- ☐ Inventions come from magic.

Draw an Invention

Draw a medieval windmill on a hill, with sails spinning in the wind and sacks of grain nearby.



Coming Up Next

Tomorrow we will learn about the most important invention of the Middle Ages — the printing press! Before it, books were so rare that most people never owned even one.