



Lesson

Becoming a toy inventor



Objective

Teach students about how things are invented, what makes a good invention, and prompt them to invent their own toy or game to submit to the Fat Brain Toys Kidventor Contest.



Materials

Craft paper, cardboard, styrofoam, glue, etc. Things students can use to build their prototypes.

Procedure

Lesson One

- ✿ Talk about what an invention is, what it means to invent something, and how an invention should meet a certain goal or address a specific need. Talk about different inventions the students use every day, what goals they meet, and how effective they are at meeting those goals.
- ✿ Present the Kidventor Competition – Go over the guidelines and rules. Prompt students to start thinking about what they would like to invent. Go over the Fat Brain Toys Tips and Tricks for inventing a toy, which can be found at <https://www.fatbraintoys.com/kidventor.cfm>.

Lesson Two

- ✿ Start with a short history lesson about famous inventors. Talk about why their inventions were successful and how they've changed the world.
- ✿ Invite students to present their toy ideas to the classroom and have them explain what goals their idea meets and how.

Lesson Three

- ✿ Talk about what a prototype is and why it's important to make one. Talk about what prototypes are usually made of – how they can be made of cardboard, paper, styrofoam, etc. Remind students that it's not the final product but a physical representation of the idea.
- ✿ Prompt students to start creating their prototypes, giving them time in class to work on them and asking them to continue working on them at home.

Lesson Four

- ✿ Have the students present their prototypes to the classroom. Invite the class to discuss each invention, how they meet the desired goal and whether or not they could be improved in any way.
- ✿ Ask the students to consider how they're going to consolidate their idea into an effective presentation they can submit to the Kidventor Competition.

Lesson Five

- ✿ Have the students turn in their final invention ideas including a well thought-out description as well as any sketches or pictures. Students with a video explanation or demonstration have a much higher rate of becoming a finalist.
- ✿ Have students take turns submitting their ideas online at https://www.fatbraintoys.com/kidventor/entry_form.cfm.

