Name: _____ Date: _____

ELIJAH MCCOY



Read the biographical passage about Elijah McCoy and answer the questions.

Elijah McCoy was a very clever inventor who changed the way machines work. He was born on May 2, 1844, in Ontario, Canada. As a young boy, he loved to learn about how things worked. When he grew up, he went to Scotland to study engineering because he wanted to become an expert at building and fixing machines.

When Elijah came back to Canada, he found it hard to get a good job in engineering because of unfair rules about race. So, he started working with trains. While working there, Elijah invented something amazing. He made a special cup that could keep train engines oiled all the time. This invention was so good that people started saying "the real McCoy" to mean something was the best of its kind.

Elijah McCoy invented more than 50 things in his life, including a new kind of ironing board and a lawn sprinkler. But his oiling cup was the most famous. Even though it was hard for him because of the color of his skin, Elijah never stopped inventing. He showed everyone that you can do great things no matter what.

Elijah McCoy died on October 10, 1929, but people still remember him for his smart inventions that helped make machines better and work smoother.

Use this image

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Why was it hard for Elijah to find a good engineering job?

2 What does the phrase "the real McCoy" mean?

3 Why do people remember Elijah McCoy?

Use the Village