

## Who Invented Earmuffs?



*Photo Credit: Donna and Andrew*

Chester Greenwood became an inventor when he was 15 years old. An inventor thinks of ideas that solve problems.

One day, Chester went ice-skating. His ears felt cold. He covered them with his scarf, but the scarf was itchy.

Then Chester had an idea. He asked his grandmother to help him. They made two wire circles and covered them with fur. They connected the circles to each other with a metal band.

Chester put his invention on his head. It kept his ears warm. Chester called his invention "earmuffs."

People liked the invention and bought their own earmuffs. Now every year people in his hometown in Maine have a parade. Everyone wears earmuffs, of course!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** For questions 1-4, circle the correct answer.

1. What do we call a person who thinks of ideas that solve problems?

- a) an inventor
- b) a genius
- c) a bully

2. Who is this passage about?

- a) Little Red Riding Hood
- b) grandmothers
- c) Chester Greenwood

3. Chester's problem was he did not have something that was not itchy and kept his ears warm.

What part of the passage shows that this is true?

- a) "They connected the circles to each other with a metal band."
- b) "His ears felt cold. He covered them with his scarf, but the scarf was itchy."
- c) "Now every year people in his hometown in Maine have a parade."

4. What is the main lesson in "Who Invented Earmuffs?"

- a) Chester Greenwood invented earmuffs.
- b) Always wear earmuffs when you go ice-skating.
- c) You must wear earmuffs to march in a parade.

5. A) What materials did Chester and his grandmother use to make their first pair of earmuffs?

They used

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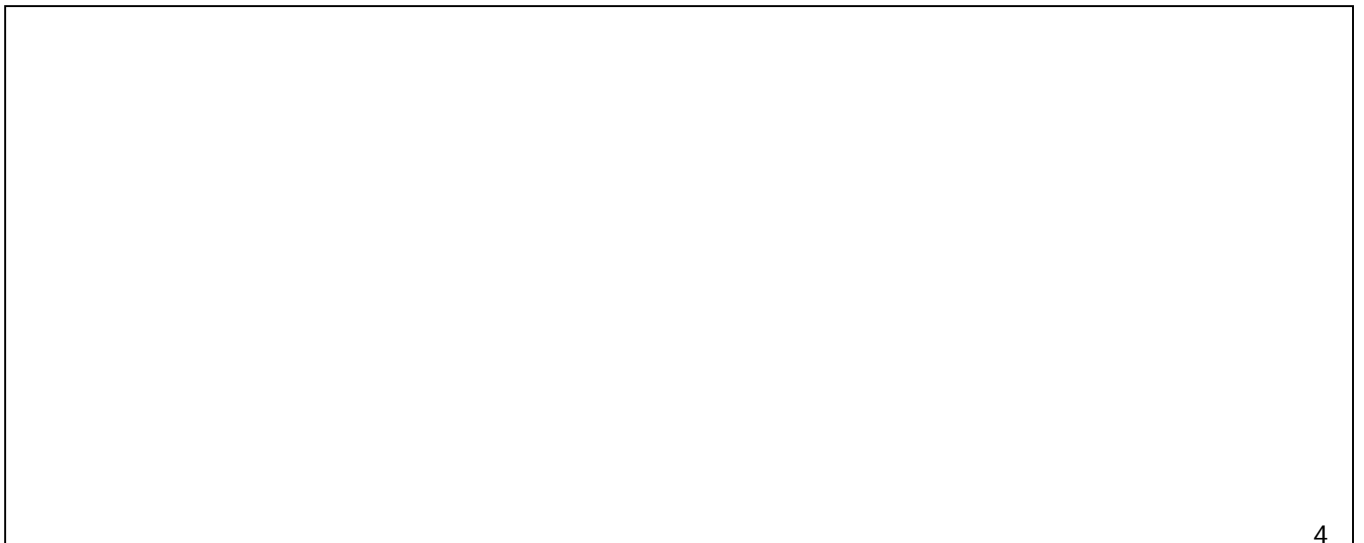
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B) Draw a picture of Chester's invention.



6. What did you learn from "Who Invented Earmuffs?"?

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**7. Class Discussion Question:** Explain why some people in Maine march in a parade every year wearing earmuffs.

**Teacher Guide & Answers**

**Note to Teacher:** Read each question out loud to your students and have each student complete the worksheet independently. For questions 5 A) and 6, you can have students draw their answers, answer orally, or write their answers depending on your students' progress. If you have them write their answers, you may want to write the word(s) on the board for them to copy. Question 7 is a class discussion question.

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 510

**Directions:** For questions 1-4, circle the correct answer.

1. What do we call a person who thinks of ideas that solve problems?

- a) **an inventor**
- b) a genius
- c) a bully

2. Who is this passage about?

- a) Little Red Riding Hood
- b) grandmothers
- c) **Chester Greenwood**

3. Chester's problem was he did not have something that was not itchy and kept his ears warm. What part of the passage shows that this is true?

- a) "They connected the circles to each other with a metal band."
- b) **"His ears felt cold. He covered them with his scarf, but the scarf was itchy."**
- c) "Now every year people in his hometown in Maine have a parade."

4. What is the main lesson in "Who Invented Earmuffs?"

- a) **Chester Greenwood invented earmuffs.**
- b) Always wear earmuffs when you go ice-skating.
- c) You must wear earmuffs to march in a parade.

5. A) *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

What materials did Chester and his grandmother use to make their first pair of earmuffs?

**Suggested answer:** They used *wire, fur, and metal*.

- B) Draw a picture of Chester's invention.

**Suggested answer:** Students' pictures may vary but should depict a simple pair of earmuffs with two fur circles connected to each other by a metal band. Advanced pictures may show people wearing these earmuffs.

6. *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

What did you learn from "Who Invented Earmuffs?"

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage.

7. *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

**Class Discussion Question:** Explain why some people in Maine march in a parade every year wearing earmuffs.

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary but students should explain that Chester Greenwood was from Maine. In fact, that is probably where he lived when he was 15 and invented earmuffs. We know this because his hometown is in Maine. The people in his hometown are proud of Chester and his invention, so they have a parade to honor him. They honor him by wearing his invention – earmuffs!