

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

**GRADE 6**  
**Reading Language Arts**  
**STAAR Alternate 2**

**Administered April 2023**

**RELEASED**



# READING LANGUAGE ARTS



# Accidental Inventions



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An engineer named Percy Spencer had the idea for a microwave oven when he put a candy bar in his pocket and it melted.

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Percy Spencer had been working on a piece of equipment called a magnetron. When a candy bar in his shirt pocket quickly melted, he realized that the microwaves in the magnetron had caused the candy bar to melt. Spencer had accidentally invented the microwave oven.





microwave

© Andrey\_Popov/Shutterstock.com



stove

© Ariwasabi/Shutterstock.com

3a



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Corn Flakes is a popular cereal that was accidentally invented over 100 years ago. John Kellogg and his brother William worked at a health spa. The two brothers wanted to make healthy food for the guests. One day they accidentally ruined a batch of boiled wheat. Instead of throwing away the ruined dough, they rolled the dough into thin, flat sheets. Then they broke the sheets into small flakes. They had accidentally invented a new kind of cereal. They improved on the idea by using corn instead of wheat. Today, millions of people eat Corn Flakes for breakfast.

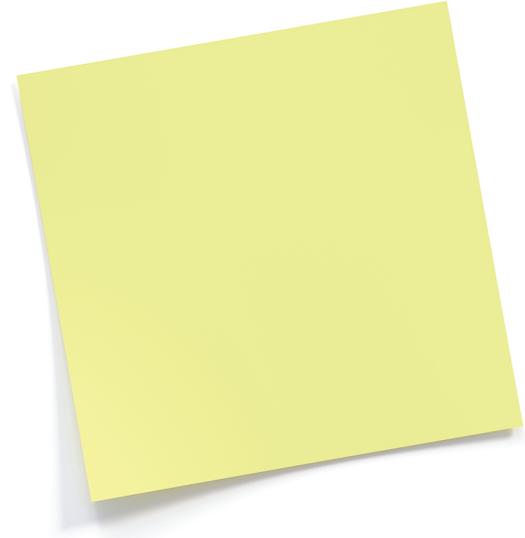


They accidentally ruined a batch of boiled wheat.

They accidentally broke the dough into flakes.

They accidentally used corn instead of wheat.

Like the microwave oven and Corn Flakes, sticky notes were also an accidental invention. Sticky notes are small, colorful pieces of paper that can be stuck to things. If you remove a sticky note from one thing, you can stick it onto something else. You could write a shopping list on a sticky note, for example. Then you could stick it to a kitchen cabinet so that it would not get lost. Later, you could move it from the cabinet and stick it to the front door as a reminder to take it with you to the store.



A chemist named Spencer Silver was working for a company called 3M. He invented a glue that was strong enough to stick but could also easily be removed. The company was not interested in his glue because glue was supposed to be strong and permanent. A few years later, another 3M employee named Art Fry figured out a way to use Silver's temporary glue. Fry, who sang in a choir, was frustrated that the papers he used to mark places in his songbook kept falling out. He used the temporary glue to make page markers that he could stick to his songbook. Because the glue was not very strong, he knew he could remove the page markers without damaging the book.

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The 3M Company liked Fry's idea and started making sticky notes. These handy notes were an instant success. Now it is hard to imagine a school or office without them.



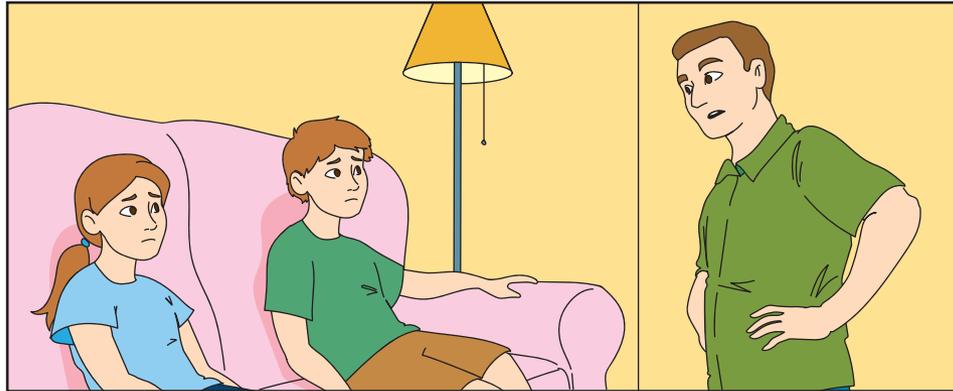
The 3M Company invented notes on colorful paper for schools and offices to use.

Art Fry invented page markers that he could move without damaging his songbook.

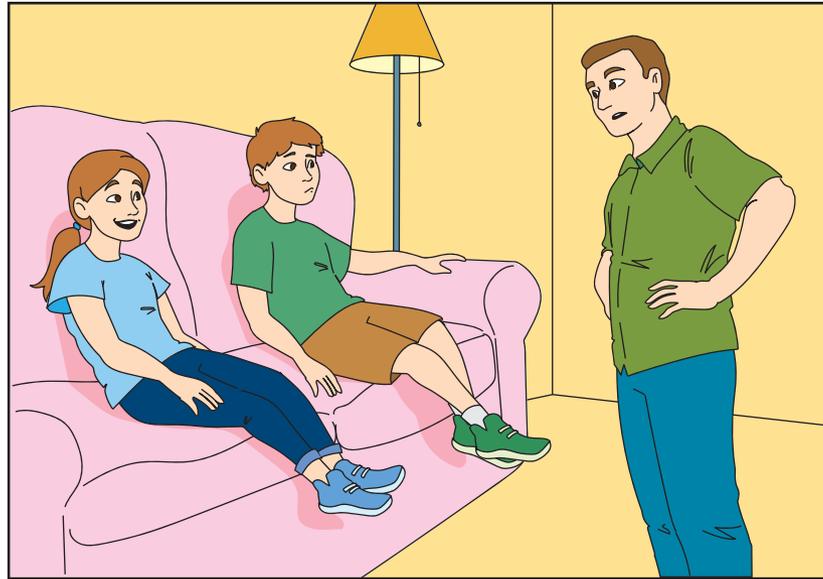
Spencer Silver invented a glue that was not strong enough to stick permanently.



## Knitting Together a Plan

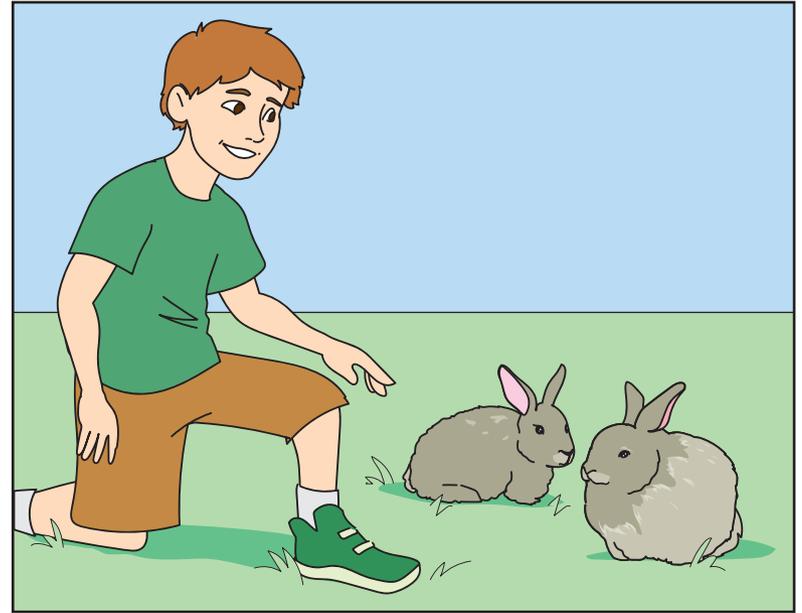
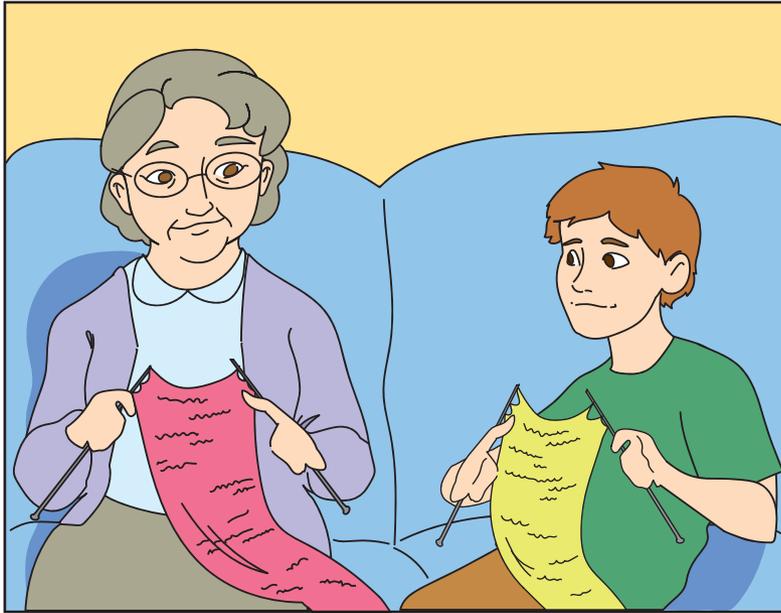


Finn and Chrissy sit together on the couch wondering what they have done wrong. Dad looks at them and says, "You need a hobby—one for each of you or one that you can share. It doesn't matter what it is, but what is important is that you find something to do this summer besides sleeping late and playing video games."

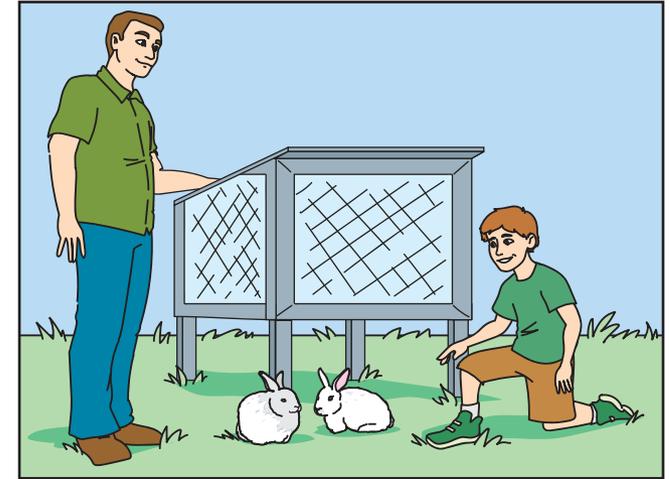


"Knitting!" Chrissy says. "Grandma said she'd teach me whenever I had the time. You could learn too, Finn."

Just as Finn starts to say he wants a dog, Dad speaks. "No dog," he says, "but if you'd like to raise rabbits and show them at the county fair, we could get you a pair."



Dad helps Finn build a rabbit cage. Then one Saturday they bring home a pair of Angora rabbits. "Is one a girl and one a boy?" Chrissy asks.

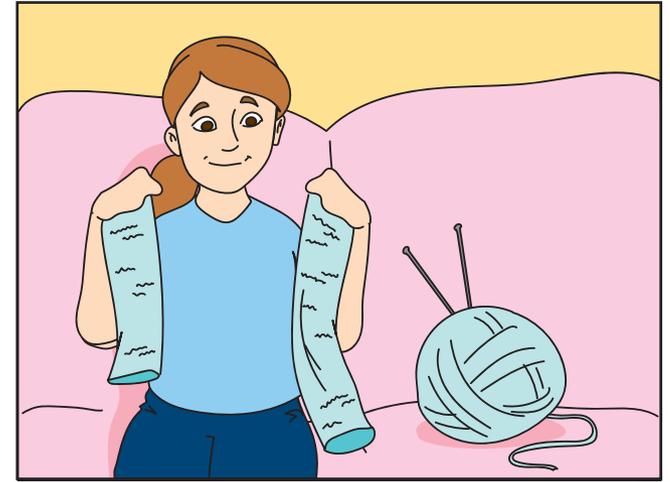


"No way," Finn answers. "I don't want baby rabbits too. These are both females, and they are called 'does.' Males are called 'bucks.' "

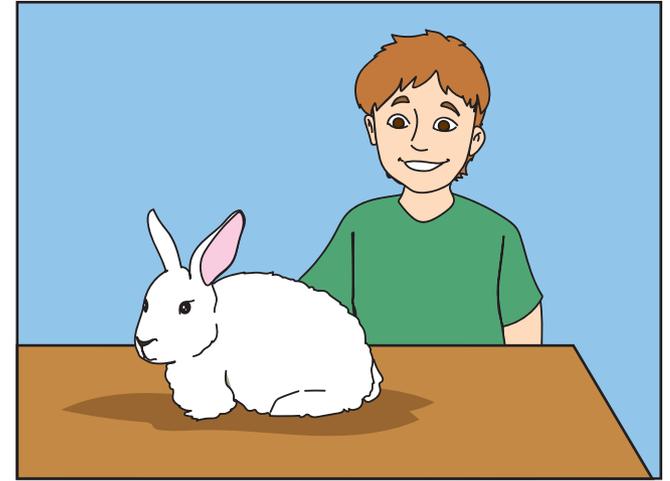
Finn learns how to care for his rabbits by keeping them well fed and cool. He makes sure they have plenty of water. He checks their health every day and keeps a record book for each rabbit.

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Chrissy spends her summer afternoons with Grandma learning to knit. She makes a pair of long sleeves for Finn to wear over his arms to protect them from getting scratched when he is working with his rabbits. The wool is itchy, and one sleeve is longer than the other.



Finn spends his time learning how to show his rabbits. He practices supporting the rabbit's whole body with his arms as he places it on a table. He faces the rabbit to his left, making sure that the tips of the front feet are even with the rabbit's eyes. He places the tips of the hind feet even with the rabbit's hip bones. Then he makes sure that the beautiful tail is out and not tucked under the rabbit's body.



Finn practices speaking to his family as if they were the judges, describing how he checks each rabbit's ears, eyes, teeth, all the way down to the toenails. He has trained the rabbits so well that they both sit completely still while he talks.

"Nice job," Dad says. "The county fair will be here before you know it."

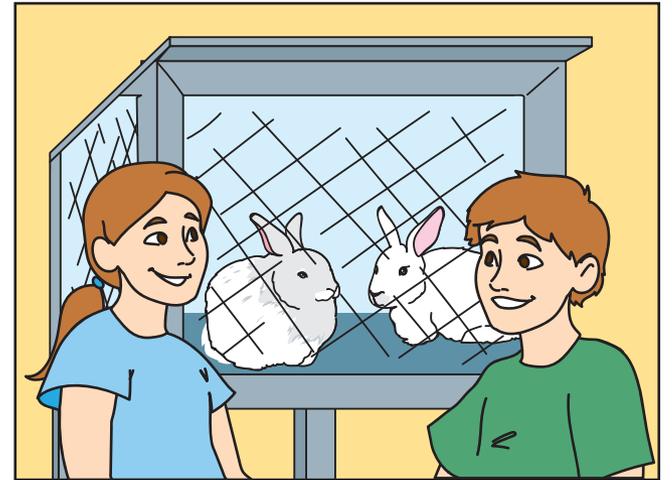


Dad wants to remind Chrissy that she needs to have something knitted ready to enter at the county fair.

Dad wants to remind Finn that he has only a short time to practice before he shows the rabbits at the county fair.

Dad wants to remind Chrissy and Finn that after the county fair, they no longer have to work on their hobbies.

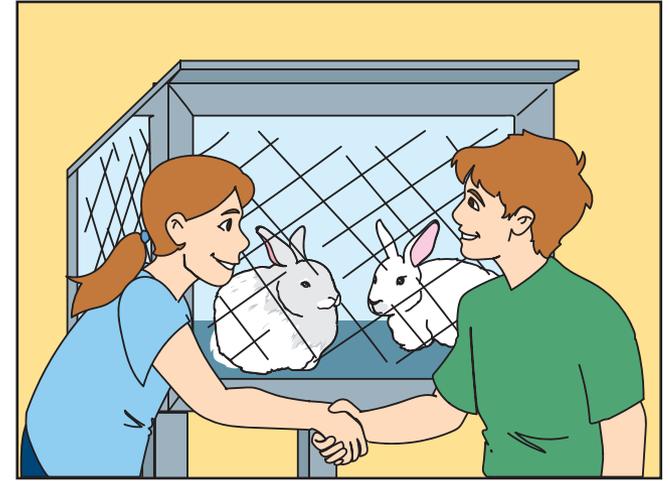
"I could use your help," Finn tells Chrissy one day when she comes out to look at the two beautiful rabbits and watch him work with them. "They need to be brushed every day to remove the old hair, and these two have tons of hair."



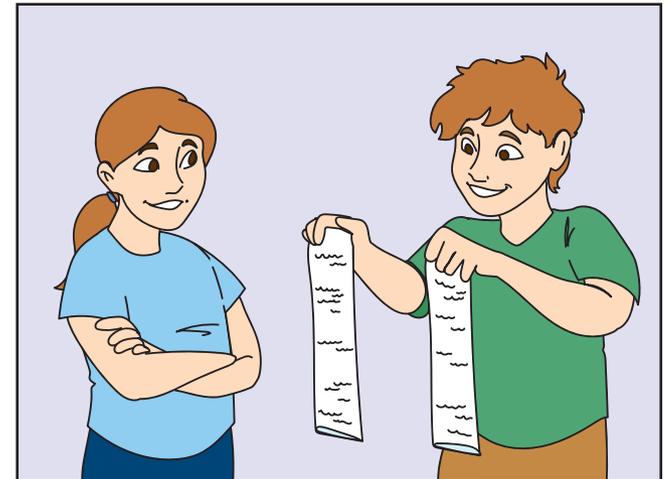
Chrissy does not want to spend her time grooming rabbits. And she needs to find a way to earn money so she can buy more wool. "I thought maybe Mom and Dad would have extra chores for me, but then I had another idea. I'm going to see if I may straighten bins and sweep the floors at The Yarn Shoppe in exchange for wool and knitting needles."

"Smart," Finn says, "but I also have a way for you to make money. These rabbits are Angora, as you know, and their wool is valuable. If you help with the brushing, you can have all the wool, which I think you can sell for a good price."

Chrissy is excited. "The Yarn Shoppe has a spinning wheel, and I know they love natural wool. You've got a deal!" She puts out her hand to shake her brother's.



The night before the fair when Finn will show his rabbits, Chrissy gives him a present. She has knitted two equally long sleeves from the whitest, softest Angora wool.



"It's a gift from me and the girls," Chrissy says as she nods at the two rabbits. "Good luck, Finn. You're going to do great!"



Chrissy wants Finn to know that she used wool from the rabbits to knit the sweater sleeves.

Chrissy wants Finn to know that girls from school helped her knit the new sweater sleeves.

Chrissy wants Finn to know that the girls at The Yarn Shoppe taught her how to use the spinning wheel.





People from all around the world come to Houston in the spring to watch cowboys and cowgirls compete in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

People on horseback and people with horse-drawn wagons meeting to participate in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo parade.



AP Photo/David J. Phillip

meet

meets

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo awards more than 800 scholarships each year. marybel gomez won a scholarship by showing a pig she had raised that year. She is one of thousands of students who enter a variety of livestock, from rabbits and chickens to goats and steers, hoping to take home the title of Grand Champion.

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AP Photo/Houston Chronicle, Alan Warren



Marybel Gomez won a scholarship by showing a Pig she had raised that year.

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Marybel Gomez won a scholarship by showing a pig she had raised that year.

Events at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo such as bull riding competitions often have the crowd in the stands on the edge of their seats with excitement. In bull riding, the cowboy holds on to a bull rope with just one hand. The cowboy tries to stay on the bull. The bull tries to send the cowboy flying.



AP Photo/Houston Chronicle, Melissa Phillip

The cowboy tries to stay on the bull while the bull tries to send the cowboy flying.

The cowboy tries to stay on the bull tries to send the cowboy flying.

The cowboy and the bull try to stay on the cowboy and the bull.





© Sean Pavone/Shutterstock.com

Houston is the largest city in Texas.

People live in Houston, Texas.



More people live in Houston than in any other city in Texas.

People live in Houston.



More than 145 different languages are spoken in Houston, Texas. spanish and english are the two most popular languages. People in Houston also speak Vietnamese, Chinese, Hindi, German, and even Tagalog, to name a few.

Spanish and english are the two most popular languages.

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spanish and English are the two most popular languages.



People who live in Houston eat out more times in a week than people in any other city in the United States. There are more than 10,000 restaurants for people to choose from.



Restaurants in Houston have gooder food than the food in more than 70 countries.

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Restaurants in Houston have better food than the food in more than 70 countries.



# Growing a Family Orchard



© Tommy Lee Walker/Shutterstock.com

Phillip Gargiulo gets up early every morning to work at his family's business, Masker Orchards, one of the largest apple orchards in New York.



© Tommy Lee Walker/Shutterstock.com

Masker Orchards has been in Phillip's family for over fifty years. Phillip and his family work year-round making sure the trees are healthy and producing delicious apples. Every fall, they work extra-long hours getting ready for the fall festival when other families come to the orchard to pick their own apples.



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Even though he's not yet a teenager, Phillip already knows a lot about running the business. He's been doing different jobs at the orchard since he was small. When Phillip was just five years old, he shared his apple-picking tips with a news reporter. "My secret is to twist them and then pull them to get them off the tree," he said.



Phillip often works with his mother and younger sister in the orchard shop. Masker Orchards is a pick-it-yourself apple orchard. Customers drive their own cars to a tree. Then they have a fun day picking apples. Some customers bring picnic lunches and spend the day. When they're ready to go home, customers bring their apple bags to the store, where they can shop for jams, sauces, and apple pies. When it is time for customers to pay, Phillip adds up the items, gives them their total, and takes their payment.





*Even though he's not yet a teenager, Phillip already knows a lot about running the business.*

*When they're ready to go home, customers bring their apple bags to the store, where they can shop for jams, sauces, and apple pies.*

*When it is time for customers to pay, Phillip adds up the items, gives them their total, and takes their payment.*



Phillip's mother has been working at the orchard since she was four years old. "Growing up, it was good and bad," she says. "From August to Halloween, I would be busy. In high school, you want to be with your friends." However, because she was working, she often did not have time for social activities.

Phillip has saved most of the money he has earned working at Masker Orchards. He plans to buy a car and to help pay for college. Even though Phillip likes earning money, working at the orchard means that Phillip must get up very early for work when he would rather sleep late. And he would like to have more time to play baseball with his friends.

Even so, Phillip appreciates the opportunity to work at the orchard. "I'm learning how to run a business," he says. "I'm learning to do things that I will need for the rest of my life. And I'm spending time with my family. I love it."

Phillip plans to continue his work at Masker Orchards when he becomes an adult. He wants to keep it running for another fifty years. In fact, he hopes to hire his own children to work there someday.

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Phillip likes learning skills he will need in the future when he runs the family business.

Phillip likes getting up early and working at the orchard better than sleeping late every morning.

Phillip likes knowing that his mother has been working at the orchard since she was four years old.



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