Discussion Questions
African American inventors in History

Part 1: African Americans Inventors in History

1. Where was the inventor from and when were they born?

2. Describe the inventor’s childhood and youth.

3. What was life like for African Americans during the time when the inventor was alive and working? Think about laws, social norms, economics, and other factors. For example, would the inventor be living in a segregated society or were African American able to apply for patents at the time?

4. What region did the inventor live and work in? Where did they receive their education?

5. Who were their contemporaries? What other scientists, inventors, or other notable people were living at the same time?

6. What was occurring technologically in the United States during this time? Example: the Industrial Revolution, the Space Age, etc.

7. What field(s) did the inventor specialize in?
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Part 2: Create Your Own Invention!

1. How did you think of your invention? Did you begin by thinking about your daily life or the people around you?

2. What does the process of coming up with an invention teach you about how inventors come up with their innovations?