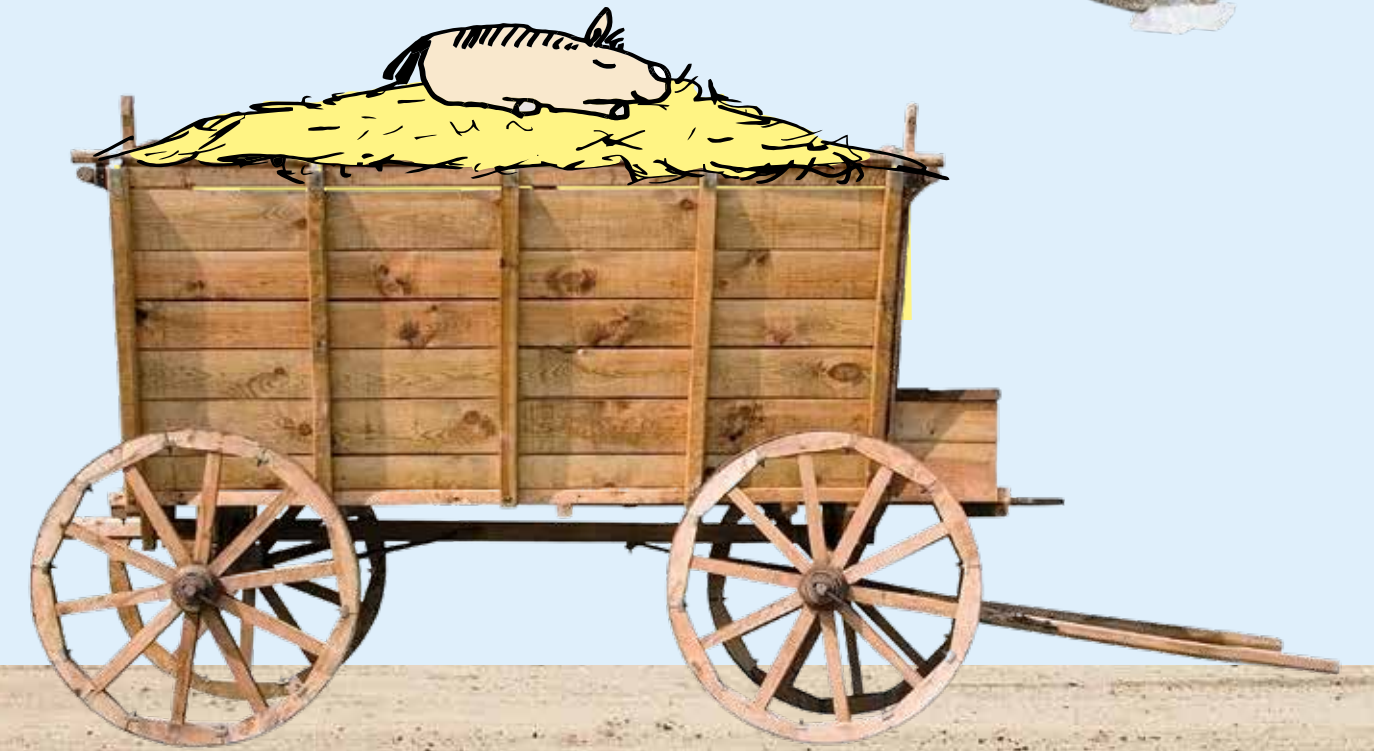


THE FIRST INVENTIONS



About 5,500 years ago, humans invent the wheel. Initially, wheels are made of stone, later of wood, and then rubber. The wheel is one of the most important inventions ever made. Thanks to the wheel, people could mill grain and transport heavy loads more quickly.



In everyday life, we're surrounded by all sorts of useful things, from a simple paper clip to a TV and from a towel to a telephone. All these clever things were once invented by someone: an inventor! Inventing is in our blood. Thousands of years ago, our ancestors discovered they could make fire by rubbing pieces of wood together for a long time. Perhaps that was the first invention ever. Many more would follow!

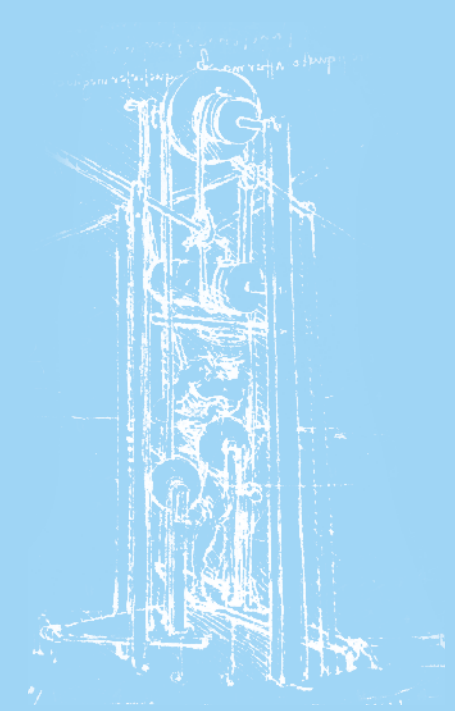
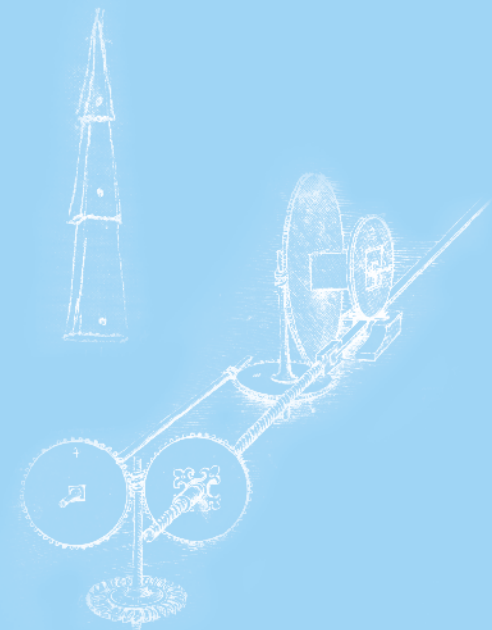
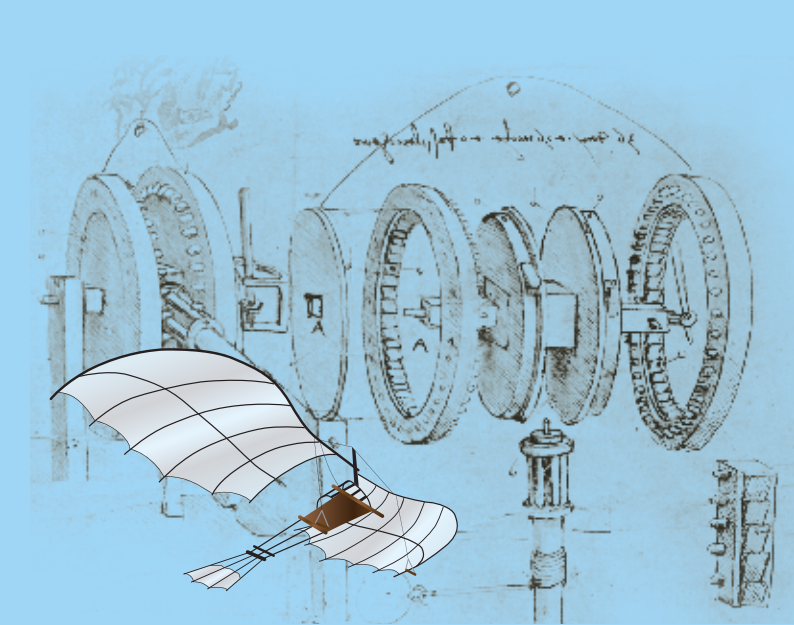


The first wheels may not have been intended for transport but to make pots. Later, stone wheels are also used to sharpen axes and knives.

GREAT INVENTORS



Leonardo da Vinci is not only a scientist and inventor but also an artist. With beautiful sketches, he shows very precisely what the mechanics of his machines would look like. During his life, Da Vinci keeps his inventions a secret. His drawings are discovered long after his death.



The history of humankind is filled with many extraordinary inventors. They lived all over the world and at different times. One of the greatest inventors is perhaps Leonardo da Vinci. He's born in 1452 in Italy and is a scientist, sculptor, painter, and also an inventor. In notebooks, he sketches drawings of a glider, a calculator, a submarine, and a helicopter. He describes his ingenious inventions in mirrored writing so that no one can steal his ideas!



Thomas Edison is one of the greatest inventors of modern times. As a child, he builds his first laboratory in his parents' basement. Later, he opens a much larger laboratory and produces hundreds of inventions.