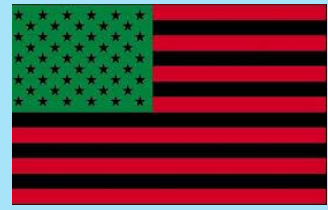


Elijah McCoy



African-American Inventor & Engineer

Elijah McCoy was an African-American inventor and engineer. He was born in Africa, a hot continent quite far away from us here in the UK. Do we know anything about Africa?

Elijah McCoy used knowledge of materials to invent many things. One of the first things he invented was the **ironing board**. He was fed up with his wife saying she had no flat surface to iron clothes on so, he had an idea! He knew that to iron properly, people needed a **flat, hard, rigid** and **smooth** surface. Using his knowledge of the properties of materials, he invented the first ironing board to do this! We even use these today, but they may look a little different now.

Elijah McCoy went on to be a very successful inventor and engineer. He also invented parts of a train to help trains move faster and more efficiently by making their engines better.



Cai Lung

Born 50 AD



Chinese Inventor & Engineer

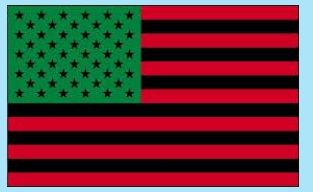
Cai Lung was a Chinese inventor from a long time ago. China is a country in the continent of Asia, far away from us here in the UK. Do we know anything about China?

Cai Lung invented some of the first **paper**. He knew that people needed something easy to write and draw on but, there wasn't much around. He had an idea! He used his knowledge of the properties of materials to invent and engineer some paper! He knew it needed to be **flat, flexible, smooth** and **thin**. Cai Lung knew that types of wood from trees such as bark alongside some fabrics could be combined by wetting, **squeezing, stretching** and drying it lots of times to create smooth, silky paper.

Cai Lung is taking advantage of the flexible properties of some materials to help him invent paper. We use paper almost everyday today. It is still primarily made from wood and uses a similar engineering process. What a great invention!



Earyn McGee



African American Herpetologist

Earyn McGee is an African American **herpetologist**. This is a branch of biology that studies reptiles and amphibians. We have all been herpetologists today as we have been studying frogs which are **amphibians!**

Earyn McGee worked for a long time looking at lizards in the American deserts in a place called Arizona.

She tries to find out more about these creatures including where they come from, what they eat, how they adapt to their habitats and also how to keep them safe in the wild. She is passionate about wildlife conservation which means looking at how to keep animals in the wild safe.





David Attenborough

British Biologist



David Attenborough is a very famous British **biologist**. He has just celebrated his 99th birthday! He is one of the best biologists in the world and has spent his life studying and caring for animals in the wild. He has studied and made programmes of animals that live in water, deserts, forests, cities and lots of other places all over the world.

His work was so good that he met both the Queen AND the King to receive a knighthood. This means he got special medals and could be called Sir. You may have seen some of David Attenborough's documentaries or heard of them. Some include - Planet Earth, Blue Planet and Frozen Planet. Here are links to some of these below if you'd like to watch them in class sometime.

[Blue Planet II - Series 1: 1. One Ocean - BBC iPlayer](#)

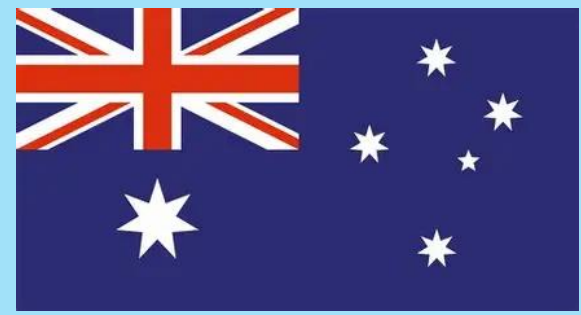
[Planet Earth - 1. From Pole to Pole - BBC iPlayer](#)

[Life - 1. Challenges of Life - BBC iPlayer](#)



Steve Irwin

Australian Conservationist



Steve Irwin was an Australian **biologist** and **conservationist** who dedicated his life to protecting endangered species by highlighting the importance of preserving natural habitats for wildlife.

He worked with a lot of different animals, some of which only native to Australia. He taught the world to respect animal habitats so that animals can thrive and keep going. He particularly enjoyed to work with and study crocodiles!

Steve Irwin also did a lot of work on marine mammals on the Great Barrier Reef located in Australia's coast. He looked at how to preserve corals so that oceanic wildlife can survive.

