

Teaching Fourth-Grade **Nonfiction Text Features** Using ***Genius Engineering Inventions: From the Plow to 3D Printing*** from the **Incredible Inventions Series**

Features that help students understand how an informational text is organized:

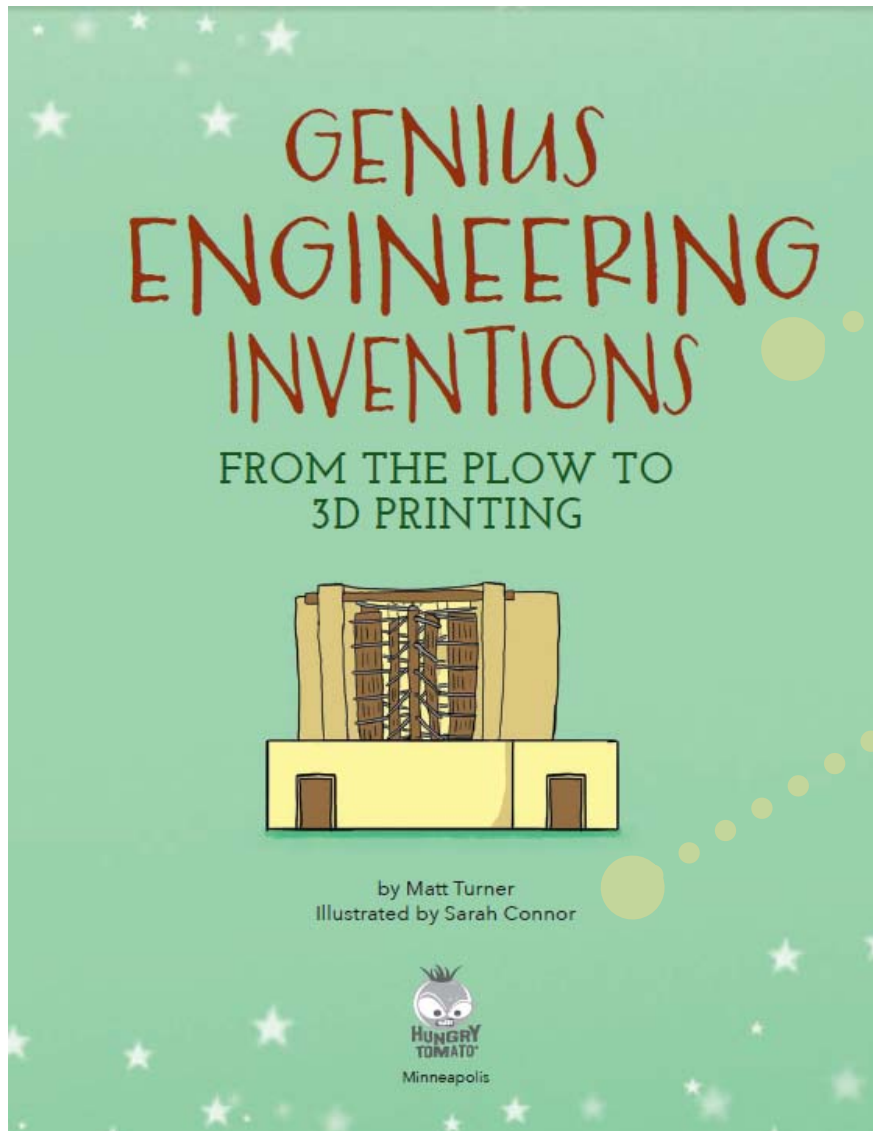
FEATURE	PURPOSE
Title page	Confirms title, author’s name, and publisher
Contents Page	Identifies the topics to be presented and their order
Chapter name, heading, or subheading	Helps students identify main topics on a quick pass through the text
Page number	Helps students with sequence of ideas and aids in using the index
Glossary	Defines new and important words
Further reading and websites	Helps students expand their knowledge of the topic by listing other informational texts in print or on the Internet
Index	Lists the main ideas in the text, with page numbers to help students find them

Visual aids that help students understand informational texts:

VISUAL AID	PURPOSE
Photo, drawing, or illustration	Shows how something in the text looked or might have looked
Diagram	Gives a more detailed view of a complex topic

Features that point out important or additional information:

FEATURE	PURPOSE
Copyright Page	Tells students how current the information in a book is
Bold print	Tells students a word is new and important; sometimes a glossary term
Italic Print	Tells students the word is supposed to stand out. It may be for emphasis or because it is a book name, newspaper, movie title, foreign word, or the directional for a photo or illustration.
Caption	Points out what’s in a photo, a drawing, or an illustration and relates it to the informational text; often gives more information
Label	Identifies important points of interest in a diagram or photograph



TITLE: This is the title of the book. It tells you what the book is about.

AUTHOR

TITLE PAGE: This is the first page of the book. It tells you what the name, or title, of the book is. It also tells you who wrote the book. This person is called the author.



COPYRIGHT YEAR

COPYRIGHT PAGE:

This page tells you the year in which the book was published. This may be important for report writing when you need up-to-date information. On this page, you can also find the address of the publisher.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

This list at the beginning of the book explains in what order you will read about topics. Page numbers tell where each topic starts.

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Making Progress	6
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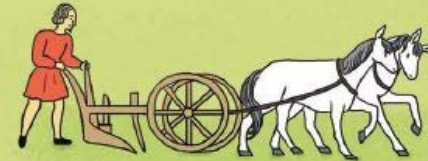


HEADINGS: These words separate your book into parts. Headings are usually in bigger type and are at the top of the page. A heading tells you what's to come in that part of the book.

PHOTOS/DRAWINGS: The photos or drawings in a book show what the words, or text, describe. Looking at images can help you understand the meaning of the text.

MAKING PROGRESS

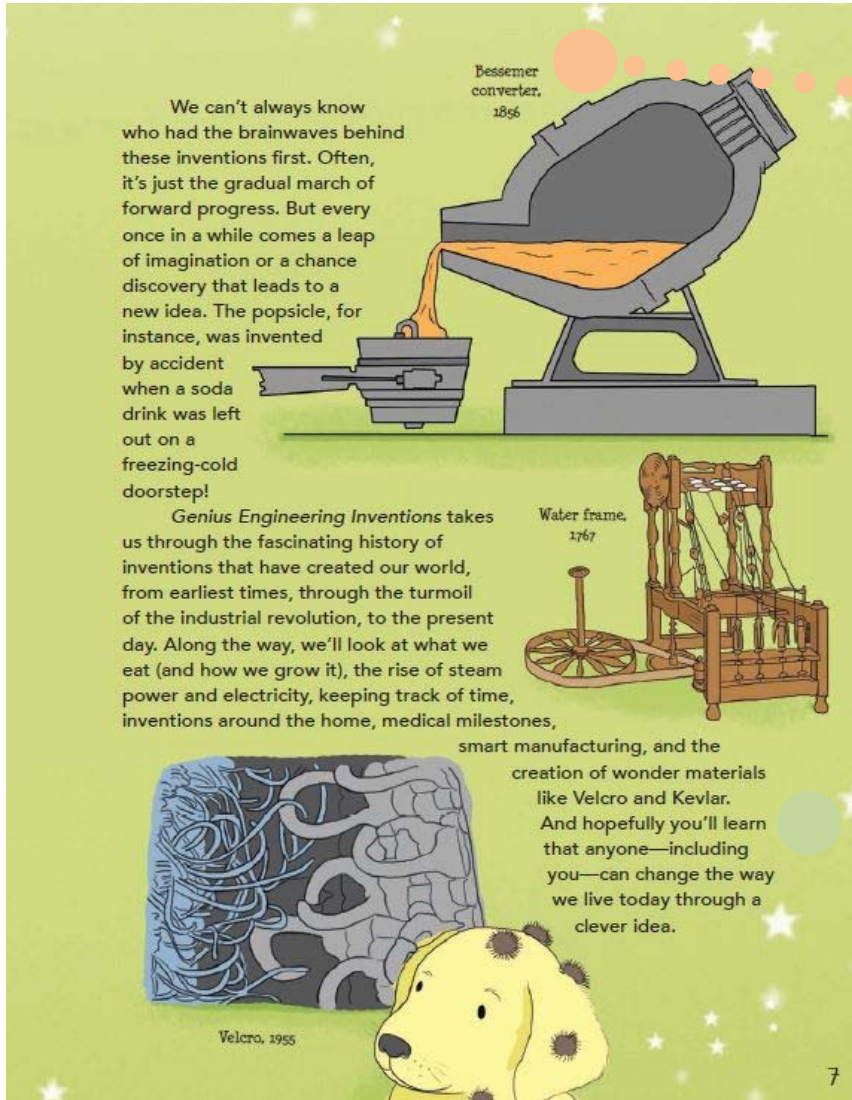
The society we live in is in a constant state of reinvention. Every day, new products and ideas come to market. Some are excellent, like the electric motor or the heart pacemaker, while others are not so good—for example, Thomas Edison's giant gelatin-mold houses. But these ideas all add to a history of innovation that dates back thousands of years to when our ancestors first came up with the plow, the wheel, the clock, and the countless other everyday items we take for granted. And they all shape society. Electricity gives us instant communication, convenient kitchen gadgets, and clean transport. Medical advances have added years to the average life span.



Medieval moldboard plow, ninth century



Antiseptic surgery, 1860s



CAPTION: These words help to tell you what a picture is about. A caption is usually close to the picture it goes with.

TEXT OR MAIN TEXT: These are the words on a page that describe the main ideas of the book. Main text is usually smaller than chapter titles or headings.



DIAGRAM: A diagram is a type of drawing or labeled photograph. It may show details or parts of an object or explain how something works.

LABELS: These words are part of a diagram. They point out important parts of the object being shown.

PAGE NUMBERS: Page numbers are on the lower part of most pages in a book. They tell you how far along you are in a book. They also help you find information from the index.

AT HOME

Take a look around your home and school. Some of the basic materials—glass, concrete, brick—date back to ancient civilizations, and it's hard to say exactly who invented them. But all those nifty devices, such as locks, doorbells, elevators, and toilets came from someone's brainwave.



PIN LOCK

Over 2,000 years ago, the Mesopotamians used key-operated door locks, made from timber. This is an ancient Egyptian pin lock.



CHALLENGE LOCK

High-security locks date back to 1784, when British engineer Joseph Bramah designed his Challenge lock. He promised a big cash prize to the first person to pick it (unlock it without a key). It remained unpicked for sixty-seven years! By then, of course, old Joe had died.



CHUBB LOCK

English locksmith Jeremiah Chubb invented this detector lock in 1818. If you used the wrong key in it, the lock jammed and could only be opened with a special extra key (right).



ELECTRIC DOORBELL

In 1831, American scientist Joseph Henry invented a doorbell that rang inside a building via an electric wire. Yep. We have him to thank for all those kids who ring the bell and run away. The electric relay in Joe's bell was later used by Samuel Morse in the Morse code tapper.



I could get tired of this.

ITALIC PRINT:
 This type is slanted to make a word or phrase stand out. Italicized words may be names of books, newspapers, movies, ships, or foreign words. They may also tell you which caption goes with which photo.

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INDEX: This list at the end of the book follows the order of the alphabet. The index helps you find main ideas. The words in the index are followed by page numbers. These numbers tell you where to go in a book to find the main ideas.

The Author

British-born Matt Turner graduated from Loughborough College of Art in the 1980s, since then he has worked as a picture researcher, editor, and writer. He has authored books on diverse topics, including natural history, earth sciences, and railways, as well as hundreds of articles for encyclopedias and partworks, covering everything from elephants to abstract art. He and his family currently live near Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand, where he volunteers for the local Coastguard unit and dabbles in art and craft.

The Illustrator

Sarah Conner lives in the lovely English countryside, in a cute cottage with her dogs and a cat. She spends her days sketching and doodling the world around her. She has always been inspired by nature and it influences much of her work. Sarah formerly used pens and paint for her illustrations, but in recent years she has transferred her style to the computer as it better suits today's industry. However, she still likes to get her watercolors out from time to time and paint the flowers in her garden!