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A Salute To CREATIVE WOMEN

Inspiring Us Every Day



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Barbie is Born!

Ruth Handler

Ruth Handler watched her daughter play with paper dolls. She noticed that Barbara always played with the adult dolls, never with the ones that looked like babies or like girls her own age. Little girls didn't want to play at being girls. They already were girls. Instead, they wanted to play at being what they weren't yet – grown women, wearing glamorous clothes and leading exciting lives. Handler wanted to make a real doll that looked like a woman. In March 1959, Barbie (Named for Handler's daughter Barbara) was born, followed by Ken (named for her son, Kenneth). The toy world was changed forever! How many Barbie dolls are in your house?



Crowing Glory

Margaret Stewart Joyner



Margaret Stewart Joyner understood that a person's appearance would affect the way that person felt and that how the person felt would affect how she acted. She knew that people who felt good about their appearance acted with more self-respect and more respect for others, too. She invented a permanent-wave machine to create hair styles that would last for a long time. In 1926, she became the first African American woman to receive a patent for her invention. She worked for years to help young African Americans find jobs and she raised money for African American colleges.

Just not beauty

Hedy Lamarr

Actress Hedy Lamarr was gorgeous and brilliant. She was married to a man who sold weapons for a living. During her conversations with him, she came up with an idea. In June 1941, she patented an idea for a radio controlled torpedo. It was never used during World War II, but, shortly thereafter, the Sylvania Company used her idea for the basis of its satellite communication technology, much of which is still used today.



Beauty and Brains

If you build it,
IT WILL LAST!

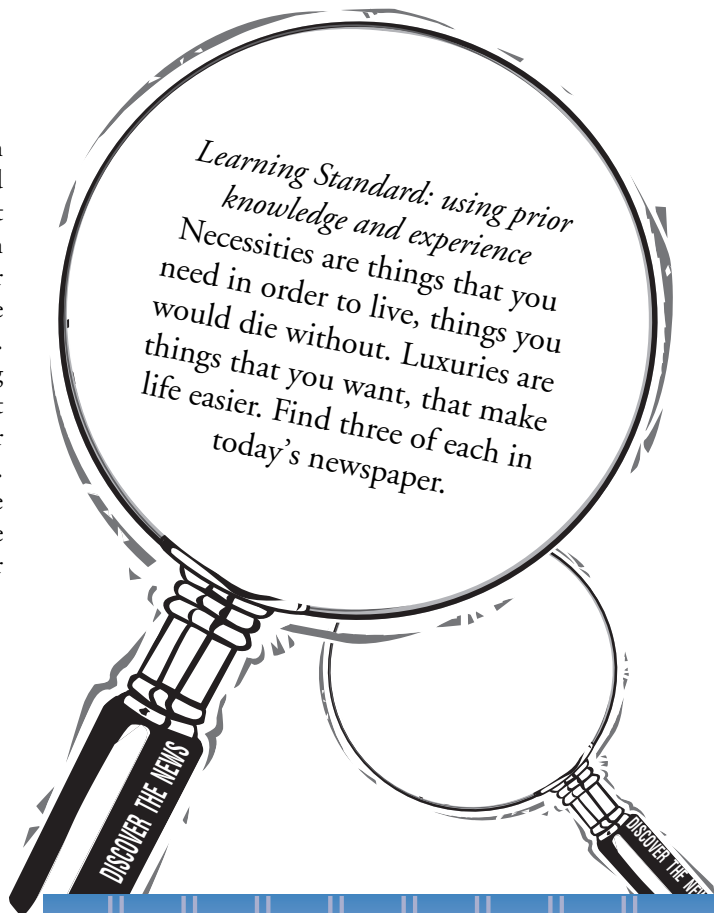


Patricia Billings

Sculptor Patricia Billings was certainly heart broken when a swan she worked on for months fell and shattered into a million pieces. She studied other great artists, like Michelangelo, and she knew they had often mixed in a kind of cement that made their plaster sculptures stronger. So, in the late 1970s, she took some time off from her art to develop a strong material for sculpting. That detour was sure profitable as she ended up creating Geobond®, a material so strong it not only resists breakage but fire, too! Geobond® products are so resistant to heat that after being torched with a 2,000°F flame for four hours, it's just warm. Billings has won two patents for her work, but she has kept the complete recipe for Geobond® a secret. Contractors began to use Geobond®, and people who saw how it could be used for fireproof building were really impressed.



How would you make the world more beautiful?



Learning Standard: using prior knowledge and experience
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Ruth Rogan Benerito

Ruth Rogan Benerito (born 1916) is a scientist known for her work related to the textile industry. She has 55 patents with her most noted work relating to the use of mono-basic acid chlorides in the production of cotton. This allowed for more wrinkle-free and durable clothing.

Ruth Benerito was raised in New Orleans and entered Tulane University at age 15. She graduated during the Great Depression and for a time had to teach at local schools before making her name as a chemist. She later earned her doctorate from the University of Chicago and after World War II created the innovations that some say "saved the cotton industry."



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