

# Science is everywhere!

By Kerri Savage



Do you ever wonder why or how something works? Why snowflakes are all unique, how a motor runs, why your muscles hurt after playing a long soccer game? This interest in asking questions, or inquiry, is a key trait found in all scientists.

Inquiry lets us use our natural curiosity and helps feed our desire for knowledge. Not only do you ask questions, but inquiry gives you the urge to explore the many ways to answer these questions. This is the foundation of science!

Science and scientists are all around us. You don't have to be a schooled scientist to be able to observe the science that exists in your own backyard. If you really think about it, you will soon conclude that science is a large part of your everyday life. Your local baker uses science to create the yummy breads and cakes that are sold in the bakery. Your hairstylist incorporates science when mixing dyes and solutions that use specified processing times. Concrete companies use science to make concrete compounds harder, faster drying and more resilient.

Science doesn't have to be intimidating or something that happens "somewhere else." Canada has home grown many scientists who have been responsible for creating important inventions that make our life easier today. Though science isn't simply about inventing, here are a few examples of Canadian discoveries:

It is not commonly known, but a Canadian was one of the original creators of the light bulb, an invention usually credited to American Thomas Edison. In 1874, while similar developments were happening in Europe, a medical electrician from Toronto, Henry Woodward, and his partner Mathew Evans, filed a patent in Canada for the light bulb. After unsuccessfully trying to commercialize their product, they sold their Canadian and US patents to Thomas Edison.

Similarly, Canadian Alexander Graham Bell, is often credited as being the inventor of the telephone, though he was merely the first to patent his creation. In reality, the telephone was born out of the work of many scientists, all working on the same general idea at the same time. Bell can be individually credited for creating a commercially viable telephone system, and the beginnings of modern day telephone companies.

Another form of modern communication is the wireless handheld device known as the BlackBerry. This device that can be used as a mobile phone, for e-mail, faxing and web browsing, was developed by a Canadian company, Research In Motion.

These are just three of the many homegrown creations that have changed the world. Get inspired and put on your science hat. You'll be surprised at how much you can learn just by indulging your natural curiosity, asking questions and observing!