





Tree House Day was finally here! Noah felt as though he had waited forever for this day to come.

The wait was over. And the sooner Dad and Noah start building, the better. There is going to be a **meteor shower** tomorrow night. Dad had promised they could watch it from the tree house if they built it in time.

Noah buckled his **tool belt**, laced up his **work boots**, and raced downstairs. He was ready to get to work.



But Dad was still studying their **plan**. “Oh, no,” Noah thought. “No more waiting!”

“Dad,” said Noah, impatiently. “It’s time to go to the **hardware store**.”





“Hey there, sleepasaurus rex!” Dad said.

“Ready whenever you are.”

“Let’s go then!” Noah said.

Tree House Day had officially begun!

INVENTOR'S SPOT

An invention is something new that people can use. In the past, someone invented the power drill, the shopping cart, and the hard hat. These inventions helped make life easier and safer for people. Here are the inventions that helped Noah and his family build a tree house in their backyard.

Extension Cord A long electrical cord that has a plug at one end and an outlet at the other. The extension cord was invented in **1904** by S.W. Atherton, an American inventor and electrical engineer. People use extension cords to bring electricity to machines far away from an electrical outlet.



1895



Power Drill An electrical tool used to make holes in hard materials. Wilhelm and Carl Fein get credit for inventing the first power drill in **1895**.

1904

1917



Forklift A vehicle with two projecting prongs. The driver raises or lowers the prongs to move heavy loads, such as lumber. The forklift was invented in **1917** by workers at the Clark Equipment Company, in Buchanan, Michigan.

1919

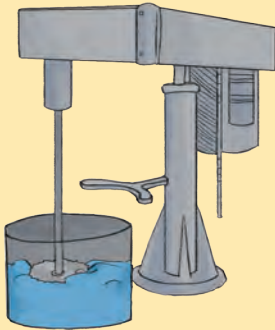


Hard Hat A hat worn by workers at a building site to protect their heads from falling objects. The hard hat was invented by Edward Bullard in **1919**. Bullard got the idea for making a hard hat from his son's army helmet.

Patents: How Inventors Protect Their Ideas

Inventors stop people from copying their inventions by getting a patent from the government. No one is allowed to copy an invention that has a patent. A patent lasts for up to twenty years. After that, anyone can copy the invention.

Paint Mixture A machine that mixes different colors of paint to make a new color. Fred A. Schletz invented the paint mixer in **1932**. Schletz's invention was a big success.



1932



Tarp A large piece of heavy cloth that is used as a covering. Tarps have been around for hundreds of years. The first tarps were sheets of canvas covered in tar. Sailors used them to cover themselves when they slept on the deck of their ships. Lester N. Weber made the first waterproof tarp in **1932**.

1937



Shopping Cart A metal basket on wheels that people use to hold groceries while they shop. Sylvan Nathan Goldman invented the shopping cart. He showed his invention for the first time in **1937** at the Humpty Dumpty supermarket in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.