

New York Idea Makers

Trace how New Yorkers turned useful ideas into business and technology changes.

4.6e "Entrepreneurs and inventors associated with New York State have made important contributions to business and technology."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each person's name, circle each new product or process, and number the result it had for people, buildings, or jobs.

Ideas That Changed Work and Life

- ① Thomas Jennings was a tailor and business owner in New York City. Customers wanted clean clothing, but some delicate fabrics could be damaged by ordinary washing. In 1821, Jennings received a patent for a cleaning process called dry scouring. He used the process in his business. His invention helped solve a customer problem and showed that new ideas could support a business.
- ② Elisha Otis worked in Yonkers, New York, where factories used hoists to lift heavy goods. A broken rope could make a platform fall. In 1852, Otis designed a safety device that stopped an elevator platform from falling if its rope broke. His safety elevator made taller buildings more practical. It also led to the Otis Elevator Company, which sold elevators for many buildings.
- ③ George Eastman built a photography business in Rochester, New York. Earlier cameras could be hard to use and often needed heavy glass plates. In 1888, Eastman introduced the Kodak camera, which came loaded with roll film. Roll film made taking pictures simpler for more people. Eastman's company made cameras and film, creating jobs in Rochester and spreading a new technology.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What customer problem did Thomas Jennings's dry-scouring process help solve?

2 How did Elisha Otis's safety device make taller buildings more practical?

3 What made photography difficult before George Eastman's Kodak camera? What change did roll film bring?

4 Give one way Otis's idea supported business and one way Eastman's idea supported business.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose Thomas Jennings, Elisha Otis, or George Eastman. Write exactly three sentences that explain the problem the person addressed, the contribution the person made, and one result of that contribution.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each person's name, circle each new product or process, and number the result it had for people, buildings, or jobs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What customer problem did Thomas Jennings's dry-scouring process help solve?	It helped clean delicate clothing that could be damaged by ordinary washing.
2	How did Elisha Otis's safety device make taller buildings more practical?	It stopped an elevator platform from falling if its rope broke, making elevators safer to use in taller buildings.
3	What made photography difficult before George Eastman's Kodak camera? What change did roll film bring?	Earlier cameras could be hard to use and often needed heavy glass plates. Roll film made taking pictures simpler for more people.
4	Give one way Otis's idea supported business and one way Eastman's idea supported business.	Otis's idea led to the Otis Elevator Company, which sold elevators. Eastman's company made cameras and film and created jobs in Rochester.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Elisha Otis addressed the danger of elevator platforms falling when ropes broke. He designed a safety device that stopped a platform from falling. This invention made taller buildings more practical and helped create an elevator company.

Accept any three-sentence response that accurately names one passage person, explains a problem, identifies that person's contribution, and states a passage-supported result. Students may use different wording for the results.