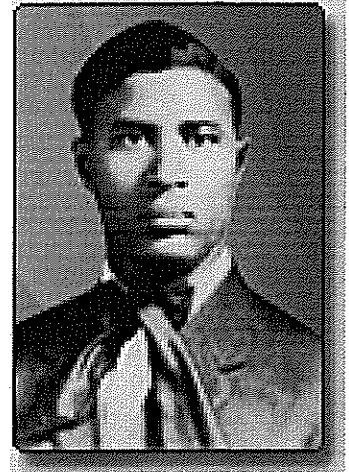


Garrett A. Morgan: Traffic Signal and Gas Mask Inventor

Many of the world's most famous inventors only produced one major invention that gave them recognition. But Garret Augustus Morgan, one of the country's most successful African-American inventors, created two – the gas mask and the traffic signal.

Born in the last quarter of the nineteenth century to former slaves, Garrett A. Morgan was only formally educated to a sixth-grade level. Fortunately, like many great inventors, Morgan had an **innate** mechanical mind that **enabled** him to solve problems. And, unlike most other inventors, he also was a skilled **entrepreneur**.



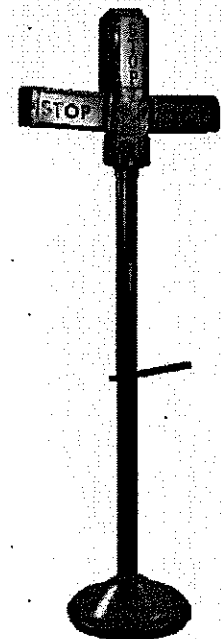
After moving to Cleveland, Ohio, at the age of 18, Garrett Morgan's business sense and strong **work ethic** led him to almost immediate success. He invented and patented the first chemical hair straightener, started his own sewing equipment repair business, and even **established** a newspaper – the Cleveland Call.



them out. After the rescue was a success, requests for the masks began pouring in.

Similarly, Garrett Morgan's other famous invention – the traffic signal – was also invented to help save lives. After witnessing an accident on a roadway, Morgan decided a device was needed to keep cars, **buggies** and **pedestrians** from colliding. His traffic signal was designed to stand on a street corner and notify vehicles and walkers whether they should stop or go. After receiving a patent in 1923, the rights to the invention were eventually purchased by General Electric.

But Morgan's most famous accomplishments came in his role as an inventor. He received a **patent** for the first gas mask invention in 1914, but it wasn't until two years later that the idea really took off. When a group of workers got stuck in a tunnel below Lake Erie after an explosion, Morgan and a team of men wore the masks to help get



Name: _____

Imagine that something you use in your everyday life (a car, the refrigerator, light bulbs) had never been invented! How would you feel? What kinds of changes would you have to make in your daily life? Choose something important to you and pretend that it suddenly doesn't exist anymore. Write **four (4) sentences** about how your life would be different.

If the _____ was never invented then my life would be

totally different. _____
