

AWESOME KIDS

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no. 10 | January 2018

Technology | Inventions

BEST INVENTIONS OF 2017

Inventions have the power to change our world for the better. Some are designed for work. Some are just for fun. Others help people and the planet. Which invention do you like best?

Read on to learn what's special about each of them.

A shoe engineered to boost performance



Imagine a shoe that lets you run faster, turn better, and jump higher. That's the idea behind the **Futurecraft 4D**. It's a new sneaker from Adidas. It can be expertly tailored to the needs of a wearer. It's not just the size and shape of the shoe that can be customized. Its flexibility, impact type, and cushioning can be tailored, too.

The key to customization is 3D printing. It allows Adidas to "look at every single square millimetre of a midsole and tune it from a performance standpoint," says Al VanNoy, who headed the project. The midsole is the padding on the bottom of the shoe. It would take weeks to make those modifications using traditional shoemaking methods. But the Futurecraft 4D midsoles can be printed in as little as two hours.

This means Adidas could even produce them in stores. At least, that's a possibility for the future.

A robot you can relate to

Jibo looks like something straight out of a Pixar movie. He has a big, round head and a face that uses animated icons to convey emotion. It's not just that his body swivels and



swerves while he speaks. It's not just that he can giggle and dance and turn to face you, wherever you are, when you say, "Hey, Jibo."

It's that Jibo seems downright human in a way that the robots that came before him do not. (We're calling Jibo "he" because that's how he refers to himself.) "We want people to look at Jibo and realize he's a someone and not a something," says Matt Revis. He's the vice president of product management for the company that makes Jibo. And while the technology may seem amusing—or creepy, depending on your point of view—it could reshape how we interact with machines.

Glasses that give sight to the blind



Millions of people are legally blind. For them, getting around can be a challenge. Support canes and guide dogs can help. But they are no substitute for vision. **ESight 3** is. Think of it as the world's most powerful pair of glasses.

Once users put on eSight, it records high-definition video. It then uses special tools to turn those images into something the blind can see. The technology lets users take part in a variety of activities, including sports, that would otherwise be off-limits.

The device costs nearly \$10,000. The high price means it's not accessible to everyone. But it is cheaper than the company's earlier versions. It's also faster, lighter, and equipped with better zoom capabilities. So far, the company estimates that it has been used by more than 1,000 people.

A gaming console that lets you play anywhere



"When you have a great game, that moment of disappointment is when you have to stop playing," says Reggie Fils-Aime. He is the president of Nintendo of America. And so, with the **Nintendo Switch**, you don't have to. In one form, it's a handheld tablet. It allows a single user to game on the go. But it has two controllers that slide off from the sides. This makes it possible for multiple users

to get in on the action. Once people get home, they can plug the tablet into a docking station and continue playing on a home console. People seem to like the flexibility. The device hit stores in March 2017. In December 2017, Nintendo announced that it had sold 10 million Switches. Sales are expected to surpass the company's previous console, the Wii U, soon.

Source: www.timeforkids.com/g56/best-inventions-2018/

WORDS TO KNOW

Amusing - Funny

Blind - Unable to see

Boost - To increase or improve something

Bottom - The lowest part of something

Challenge - Something difficult that tests your ability

Convey - To express a thought, feeling, or idea so that it is understood by other people

Creepy - Strange or unnatural

Customize - To make or change something according to the buyer's or user's needs

Device - An object or machine that has been invented for a particular purpose

Giggle - To laugh in a nervous or silly way

Performance - How successful someone or something is

Shape - The physical form of something made by the line around its outer edge

Size - How big or small something is

Sneaker - A soft sports shoe



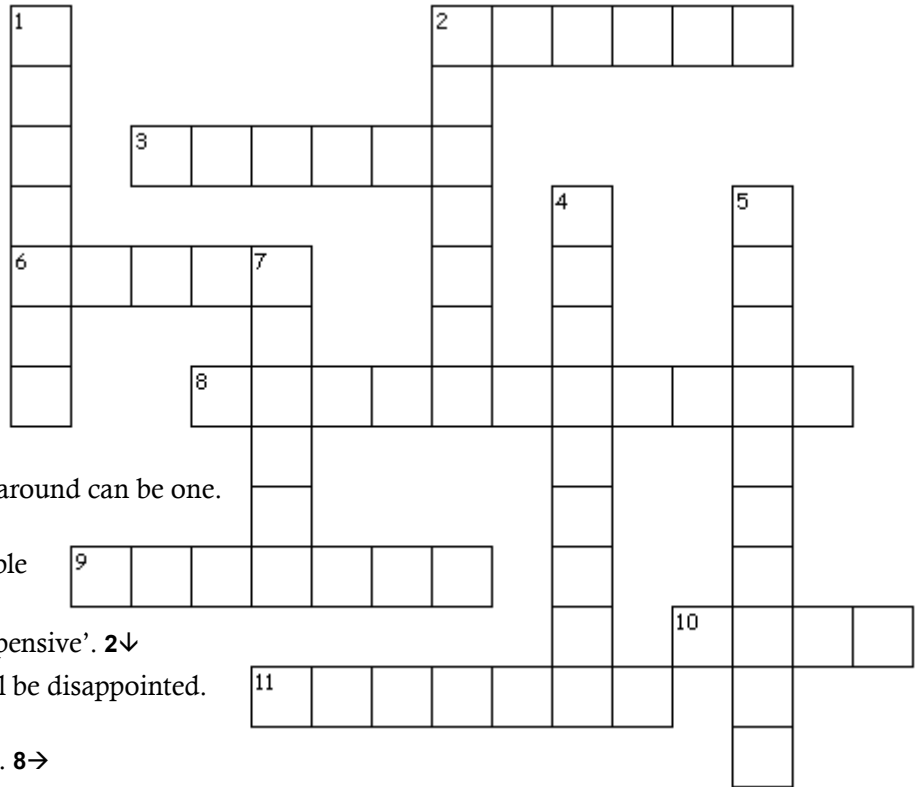
Choose one of the inventions featured in the article. Write a narrative that describes someone using the new invention. Be sure to include details that show how the new invention is changing the way the person experiences the world.

AWESOME KIDS

ACTIVITY KIT 3

A. Read the article and complete the Criss-Cross.

- Inventions have the power to do it. 2→
- Futurecraft 4D is one. 11→
- Technology that allows customization. 5↓
- The padding on the bottom of the shoe. 9→
- He looks like something straight out of a Pixar movie. 10→
- They are used to convey emotion. 6→
- Jibo can do it. 3→
- For blind people, getting around can be one. 4↓
- With ESight 3, blind people can practise them. 7↓
- The opposite of 'more expensive'. 2↓
- If you stop doing it, you'll be disappointed. 1↓
- Nintendo Switch has two. 8→



B. Find these words in the Word Search.

- | | | |
|---------|-------------|---------|
| Amusing | Faster | Lighter |
| Better | Flexibility | Plug |
| Cheaper | Higher | Swerves |
| Creepy | Impact | Swivels |

X C D X V Q U M S B F O J Z E
 H I G H E R U Z F L E V Y F V
 C Q Z G F R D M E R C Q U N J
 P X K C K P W X I H O S A R I
 A P R H U W I K G S R Y A K N
 R L M C K B J S X E R W N V H
 D U R T I S P M T A Y X N I A
 Z G M L W J A H S E V R E W S
 K L I T R M G R T C A P M I R
 G T R D U I E J P O D R G F E
 Y X T S L S E G L H O H A W T
 D G I L T D L B I D I Y O C S
 Q N I N C N T E E L H H N R A
 G C H E A P E R V T Y N S E F
 B H Y G J P K Y C I T M C E H
 D I U Q C T X P Q A W E L P X
 F G L I X F K B X Y I S R Y D
 Q J N E Q D F O N S X L D X H

C. Draw a line from each word to its opposite.

- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| 1. Amusing | a. Slower |
| 2. Better | b. Boring |
| 3. Cheaper | c. Heavier |
| 4. Creepy | d. Normal |
| 5. Faster | e. Worse |
| 6. Higher | f. Go direct |
| 7. Lighter | g. Lower |
| 8. Swerve | h. More expensive |