

Inventive Thinkers

You need ★ a ruler ★ classmates

TECHNOLOGY

New Zealanders have invented very clever solutions for problems and ways to make everyday life easier. Some famous New Zealand inventions relate to outdoor adventure activities.

Activity One

Ingrid made a list of some New Zealand inventions that were created before she was born.



All-terrain baby buggy
1992



Amphibious sports car
2003



Bungee jumping
(as a tourist activity)
1987



Ski plane
(with retractable ski)
1955



Electric fence (early version)
1937



Sonic spectacles
1965



Childproof medicine cap
1976



Jetboat (no propeller)
1954



Tranquilliser dart
1959

- Show Ingrid's list of inventions on a timeline.
 - Why is a timeline a good way to present this information?
- Ingrid discovered that, before Europeans settled in New Zealand, Māori invented a drill. The date of this invention isn't known. She decided to make a timeline from the drill to the amphibious sports car. If she showed each year as 1 centimetre and chose 1750 for the date of the drill, how long would her timeline be?

Activity Two

Colin Murdoch was born in Christchurch in February 1929. He invented the tranquilliser dart gun, which made it safer to treat large animals.

Colin Murdoch patented 46 inventions during his lifetime. Although dyslexia affected his ability in some learning areas, he had good technical skills and excelled in chemistry. His parents were alarmed at his chemistry experiments at the age of 10, but they were very proud when he received a Humane Society medal at 13 for saving a drowning man.

Colin went on to qualify as a pharmacist and veterinarian and taught himself engineering. His inventions include the disposable syringe for vaccines in 1956 and the tranquilliser dart gun in 1959. He was 47 when he patented his childproof medicine cap. In 2000, he was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to inventing.

For small animals such as this kiwi, we don't need to use a tranquilliser dart.



A vet in a wildlife safari park after she has tranquillised a rhino



A vet in a New Zealand zoo

1. Draw a timeline from Colin Murdoch's birth to his death (May 2008). Mark on it (using words and pictures) the years that relate to the events described above.
2. How old was Colin Murdoch when he died?

Focus

Using timelines and interpreting time-based information