

Best Inventions of 2025



Every year, TIME publishes a list of the year's best inventions. Here are nine of our favorites.

LEXILE: 900L

SCIENCE (NGSS) STANDARD: Engineering Design

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.2, W.6-8.2

ENGAGE THE READER

Tell students that today, they'll be reading about some of the inventions that TIME has picked as the best of 2025. Have students predict what some of the inventions are or what they do. Make a list. Then show students the article's hero image of a humanoid robot. Ask them to raise a hand if they'd like a household robot. Call on students to name the tasks they'd like their robot to do. For those who didn't raise a hand, ask why not.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- How is Windborne Systems Atlas an improvement over other weather forecasting systems?
- What impact could Monarch have?
- Evaluate each invention. How would you rate it in the following categories: originality, potential impact, fun. Which would you rate as the top invention featured?

EXTEND LEARNING

Return to the list from the beginning of the lesson and ask if anyone predicted something from TIME's list, or something similar. Discuss which inventions are most exciting to students, and why. Then return to the conversation about the robot, Figure 03. Explain that one thing this robot is being trained to do, and having difficulty with, is folding T-shirts. Partner students up and give each pair a T-shirt. Have one give the other step-by-step instructions on how to fold the T-shirt. Then have them switch roles. Bring the class back together for a discussion about what they found difficult.

Explain that these robot models are being trained with videos that teach them how to do the tasks. It took 80 hours of video for the robot to learn to fold a towel. Invite students to prepare to train a fictitious robot. Have them think about the steps necessary to complete the task, from making sure it is right-side in, to adding it to a pile. If recording devices are available, allow students to record a training video for peers to learn from.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.
To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

1. C (RI.1) **2. A** (RI.3) **3. D** (RI.8) **4. B** (RI.3) **5. C** (RI.2)
6. B (RI.8) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.1)

Name _____ **Date** _____

Use this week's cover story, "Best Inventions of 2025," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, you may use the back of this page.

<p>1. Why did Mattel create the You Create Barbie Basics Kits?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. to make new fans of Barbie B. to raise kids to be designers C. to encourage creativity with Barbie dolls D. to replace all old Barbie dolls 	<p>4. The section "Beat the Bite" says studies show that this treatment can reduce itching and pain caused by bug bites by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. applying a magnet. B. applying heat. C. going for a jog. D. cooling the skin.
<p>2. How will the Windborne Systems Atlas keep people safe?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Atlas uses an AI model to produce more-accurate forecasts. B. The balloons can provide a visual impression of how strong the wind is. C. This system is perfect at forecasting weather. D. This system uses a powerful alarm to warn people of severe weather. 	<p>5. What's the main idea of the section "Connect the Dots"?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. More than 4,000 students in the U.S. use braille to read. B. Translating textbooks into braille takes a long time. C. The Monarch device helps make text accessible for students who are blind or visually impaired. D. Braille is a system of raised dots that people read with their fingertips.
<p>3. The details included in the section "Serious Thrills" are evidence of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. how much fun the ride is. B. what a helpful invention it is. C. why the roller coaster was created. D. how big and fast the roller coaster is. 	<p>6. Which detail shows why Figure 03 is not fully ready to work in homes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The robot was built to work in factories. B. A human still needs to start the dishwasher and help if the robot drops something. C. The robot can fold clothes. D. The company hopes to have fully functioning robots in homes by 2026.

7. What invention do you think people will create in 2026? Write a paragraph describing the invention you predict and the impact it will have.
