

GREAT INVENTIONS

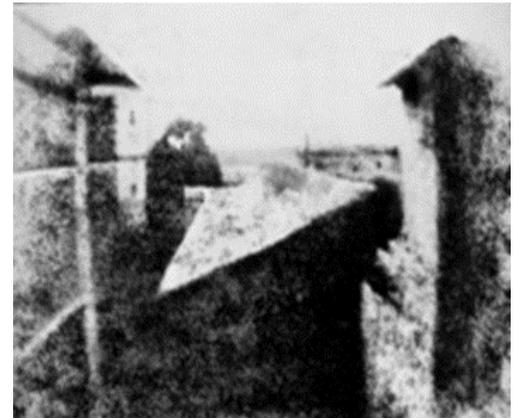
THE CAMERA



While looking at some photos I had taken with my friends, on my phone, I was curious to know how cameras were invented. I went to my computer and started to investigate.

The invention of the camera began when the ability of light to reverse images through a hole while in a dark room was discovered. The famous inventor and artist Leonardo Da Vinci said that if a blank sheet of paper is placed vertically in a dark room, the observer would see objects, including their shapes and colors from outside, projected on it. When he made this observation, he wrote: "It will be like it was painted on paper."

The first known photograph was taken by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in 1826; it is called View from the Window at Le Gras (see photograph on the right). In 1829, Niépce's and Louis Daguerre became partners, which allowed Daguerre to continue experimenting after Niépce died on July 5, 1833. Daguerre introduced his photography process in 1839, which was called daguerreotype in his honor.



Later, large cameras were made from wood and had a bellows, in which the photographer would prepare the plates while hidden under a black cloth to take the picture.



In 1888, a breakthrough came when the American, George Eastman, invented the film roll, which replaced the glass plate. Eastman's company, Kodak started selling a camera, with a film roll, included that could take several photos and then was sent to a factory to be developed. At that time, a camera cost about \$25, and developing a roll cost about \$10.

When you wanted to develop your pictures, the camera was sent in with the film still inside. After the pictures were developed, your camera was returned with a new roll installed inside. Your photos were printed on photographic paper. Later, cameras were developed that allowed the user to remove the rolls and put in new ones by himself. The photo on the right is from a roll of film.



Then, digital cameras appeared that did not use film. People could print the photos on photographic paper themselves or save them on the computer. Professional photographers use this type of camera.

Now, all smartphones have a built-in digital camera, and people take more pictures than ever since it is so inexpensive. Most of these photos are never printed. There is a new trend now in which you take pictures of yourself. They are called self-photos, selfies. One of the most famous selfies is one taken by Ellen at the Oscar awards in 2014. What about you? Have you ever taken a selfie picture?



Name _____

Date _____



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Answer the questions.

1. What did I feel when I saw the photos that I took with my friends?
 - a. Envy
 - b. Curiosity
 - c. Hungry
 - d. Dream
2. Who took the first known photograph?
 - a. Leonardo da Vinci
 - b. Louis Daguerre
 - c. Joseph Nicéphore Niépce
 - d. George Eastman
3. When did Niépce die?
 - a. 1826
 - b. 1829
 - c. 1839
 - d. 1833
4. What was the name of the photography system presented in 1839?
 - a. Le gras
 - b. Daguerreotype
 - c. Niépce
 - d. Daguerre
5. To take the photo, the photographer had to be hidden in _____.
 - a. A black cloth
 - b. A dark room
 - c. A daguerreotype
 - d. A wood with bellows
6. What did George Eastman invent?
 - a. The daguerreotype
 - b. Glass plate
 - c. Film roll
 - d. Black rag
7. What was the name of George Eastman's company?
 - a. Eastman Co.
 - b. Kodak
 - c. Daguerreotype
 - d. Eastman & Kodak Co.
8. How much did a camera cost in 1888?
 - a. 25 dollars
 - b. 10 dollars
 - c. 50 dollars
 - d. 5 dollars
9. When photos were developed at first, they were printed on _____.
 - a. Glass plate
 - b. Common paper
 - c. Daguerreotype
 - d. Photographic paper
10. Why do people take more photos today than ever before?

