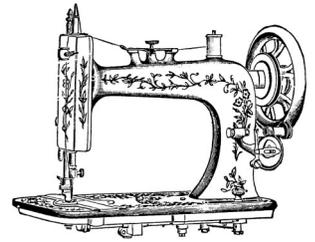


# GREAT INVENTIONS

## THE SEWING MACHINE



Yesterday, I went to my grandmother's house to ask her to help me fix a pair of pants. I was surprised how quickly my grandmother fixed it with her sewing machine. I thought about how people had to sew their clothes before the sewing machine was invented. When I got back home, I researched on the internet.

Before the invention of the sewing machine, all clothing and shoes were sewn by hand. It took a lot of work to make one garment; so, clothes sold in stores were expensive.



Who invented the first sewing machine? It is difficult to know because the oldest patent record related to the sewing machine is from 1755 in England. The machine had a double-tipped needle and was invented by engineer Charles Wiesenthal. That needle was used in a machine that someone had already invented.

Over time, innovations were added. The first patent for the sewing machine with chain stitches was given to an English inventor, Thomas Saint, in 1790. This machine did not use a needle, but an awl to pierce the material that was being sewn. However, Saint's machine never became a prototype.



On July 17, 1829, the French tailor Bartholomew Thimonnier, obtained a patent for his invention, a sewing machine capable of making two hundred chain stitches per minute.

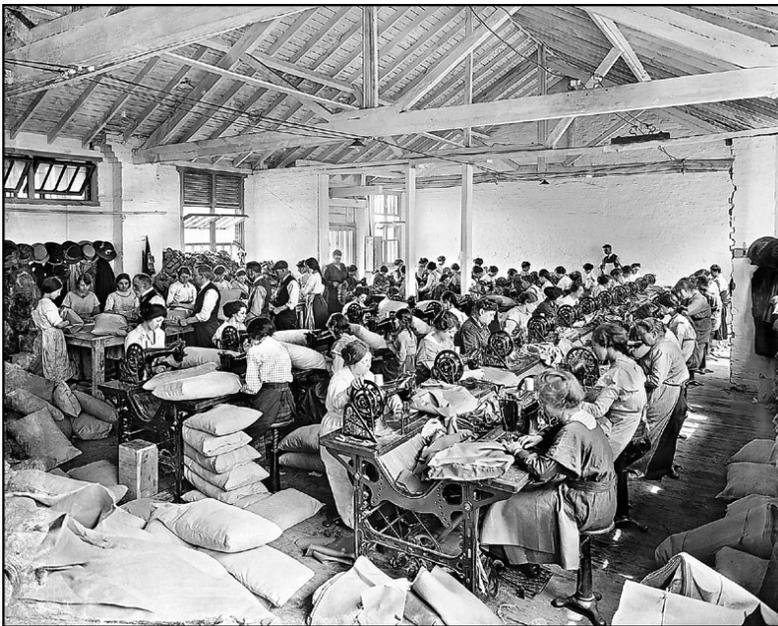
When Thimonnier installed eighty of his machines in a company making military uniforms, tailors got worried that Thimonnier's machine would leave them without jobs. They ransacked the workshop on January 29, 1831, and destroyed dozens of machines like the one seen in the photo.



In 1834, an American named Walter Hunt designed the first closed-stitch machine. A compatriot, Elias Howe, invented the first modern sewing machine in 1846. His machine used a needle with an eye on the tip and an oscillating shuttle, similar to the system used in sewing machines today.



Later, Isaac Merritt Singer developed the continuous sewing machine and founded the Singer Sewing Machine Company, which became one of the world's largest manufacturers of sewing machines. My grandmother's machine is that brand.



Sewing factories

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# THE SEWING MACHINE

Answer the questions.



1. What did my grandmother use to fix my pants?
  - a. a sewing machine
  - b. a clogged pipe
  - c. a pant
  - d. a shirt
2. What was patented in 1755?
  - a. the swinging shuttle
  - b. double pointed needle
  - c. the sewing machine
  - d. pedal mechanism
3. Thomas Saint's machine was drilling the material with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. an awl
  - b. a needle
  - c. a shuttle
  - d. a punch
4. How many sewing machines did Thomas Saint manufacture in 1790?
  - a. Fifteen
  - b. Eighty
  - c. Two hundred
  - d. one
5. How many stitches could Bartholomew Thimonnier's machine do?
  - a. 200 per hour
  - b. 200 per minute
  - c. 1829 per hour
  - d. 1831 per hour
6. Who looted and destroyed dozens of Thimonnier's machines?
  - a. revolutionaries
  - b. inventors
  - c. Englishmen
  - d. tailors
7. The needle used with the Elias Howe had \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. a double tip
  - b. a hook on the tip
  - c. an eye on the tip
  - d. a shuttle at the tip
8. Who invented the first machine modern sewing?
  - a. Isaac Merritt Singer
  - b. Elias Howe
  - c. Walter Hunt
  - d. Thomas Saint
9. What brand is my grandmother's sewing machine?
  - a. Howe
  - b. Continental
  - c. Hunt
  - d. Singer
10. Tell why the clothes sold in stores were so expensive before the sewing machine was invented.  
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