

TOP TEN SIMPLE INVENTIONS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.



THE PLOW

By making large scale grain production possible, it transformed human society into agrarian societies. Then came cities.

STIRRUPS

They made the horse an efficient, long-range mode of transportation, and a war machine that changed history.



SANITIZATION

Where would we be without the lowly sewer? No city of more than 10,000 could have survived without a simple way to flush away waste. Clay sewer pipes go as far back as Babylonian times.

THE COMPASS

Observing that lodestone aligns itself in a north-south direction, Chinese



THE SPEAR

It started out as a sharpened stick to hunt food with. Later it led to conquering armies reshaping the world.



THE WHEEL

The Big One, it got everything rolling. The oldest known was discovered in Mesopotamia and dates back to 3,500 B.C.



THE SAIL

The simple power of the wind let us discover our world. Inventing the boat first helped, too.



THE PULLEY

It's tied with the lever and fulcrum for the Top 10, but Archimedes gets the credit for both, and lifting civilization to remarkable heights.



THE CANDLE

It was a dark world until around 70,000 B.C. when hollow rocks were filled with moss, soaked with animal fat and ignited. Candleholders from the 4th century B.C. have been found in Egypt.



THE BASKET

Basket weaving allowed us to gather and carry foodstuffs more easily, and survive more easily. 12,000 year-old ones have been discovered.



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