

English

Creativity
Rube Goldberg's Invention

1. Who was Rube Goldberg? Create a short biography.



Interesting fact: The British cartoonist, W. Heath Robinson, born 11 years prior to Rube Goldberg, was also famous for his drawings of whimsically complicated machines to complete simple tasks.

2. Watch this video about Rube Goldberg, featuring his granddaughter, Jennifer George and make notes. Write a short summary using key facts.

https://youtu.be/1_hbEhyrNAM?si=MvnotF9b6IVFx4w0

3. Have a look at one of the inventions below. What machine did Rube Goldberg create? Describe the process in detail.

Useful vocabulary:

Simple tools:

Lever, inclined plane, pulley, wedge, wheel and axle, screw

Forces and motion:

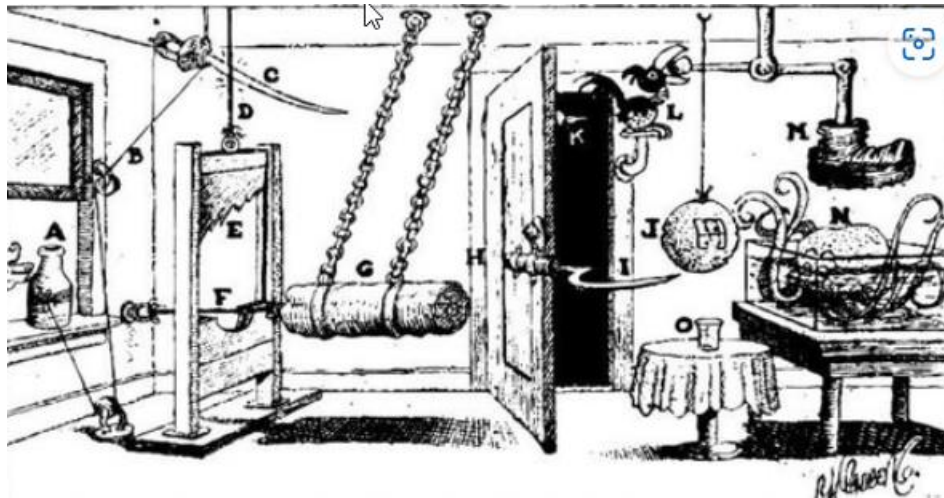
Force, pull, friction, energy transfer, gravity, speed, magnetism, push, air resistance, sink, float

Materials:

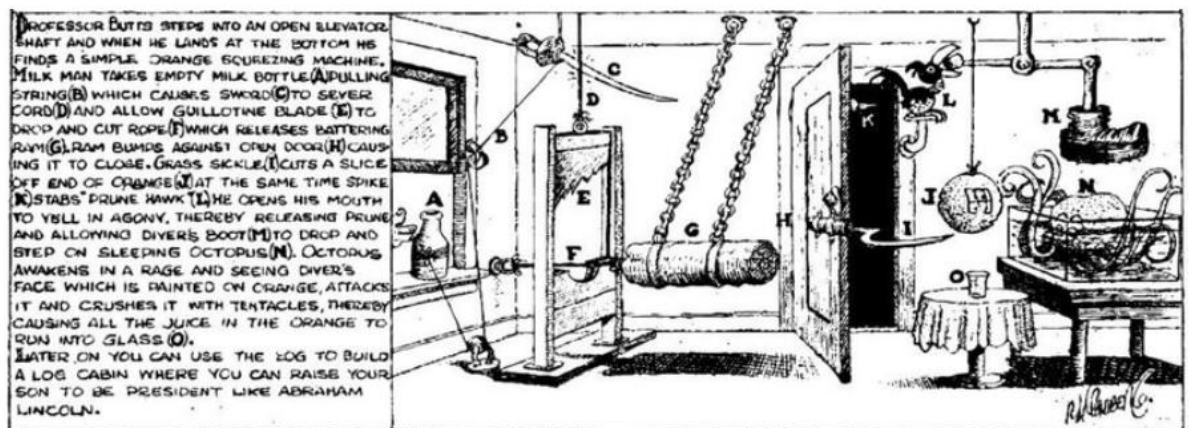
Glue gun, duct tape, marbles or balls, paper clips, chains, wooden beam, wires, balloons, dominos, straws

Additional vocabulary:

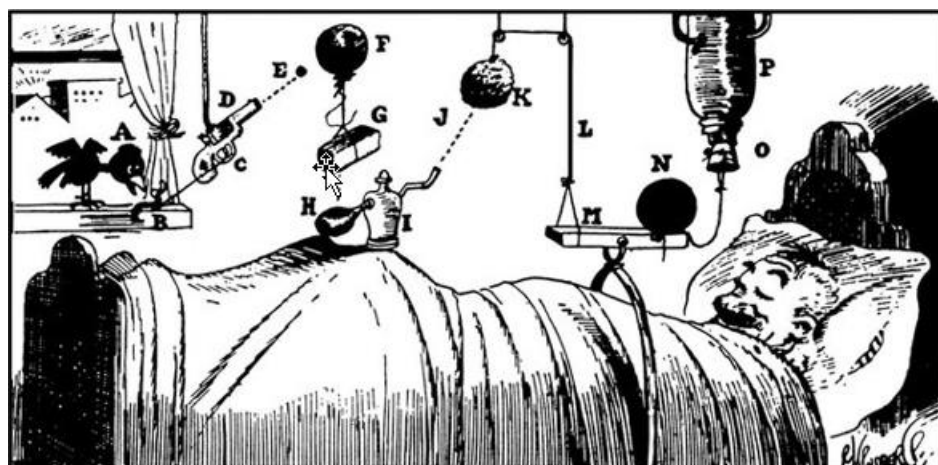
Invention A



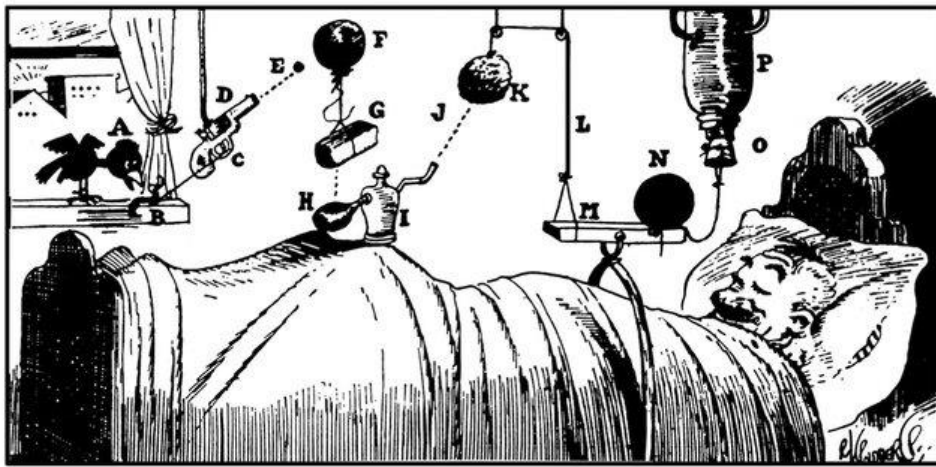
1930-04-26 Fresh Orange Juice Machine



Invention B



Simple Alarm Clock



The early bird (A) arrives and catches worm (B), pulling string (C) and shooting off pistol (D). Bullet (E) busts balloon (F), dropping brick (G) on bulb (H) of atomizer (I) and shooting perfume (J) on sponge (K)—As sponge gains in weight, it lowers itself and pulls string (L), raising end of board (M)—Cannon ball (N) drops on nose of sleeping gentleman—String tied to cannon ball releases cork (O) of vacuum bottle (P) and ice water falls on sleeper's face to assist the cannon ball in its good work.

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4. Now create your own invention. Follow these handy steps:

- **Start at the end** – what should your invention achieve?
- **Have a plan** – brainstorm, make a sketch, follow up ideas
- **Materials** – what do you need for each step?
- **Build a mock- up / create a detailed drawing**

Use this box for your own invention / if in a group, to draw the invention presented by your fellow student.

5. Present your invention with the help of the useful vocabulary.

Biography template by Canva

Drawings from [Visit the Rube Goldberg cartoon gallery - Rube Goldberg Institute](#)