

Elijah McCoy ABC Game - Teachers Notes

Learning Objectives

- This material links reading and oral skills and provides practice in study skills.
- The text is divided into three parts so the pupils have the task of collecting information from each other as well as from the text.
- The information is recorded in note form and provides a basis for extended writing.

Preparation

- Colour print this document – you can choose to only print pages 4,5,6 and you need more copies of the biographies.

Instructions

- Divide pupils into groups of approximately 3 children. These can be mixed ability groups with children able to support other and sharing first language. Each group takes a letter A,B or C
 - Group A pupils should have access to a copy of sheet A.
 - Group B pupils should have access to a copy of sheet B.
 - Group C pupils should have access to a copy of sheet C.
- Each group completes as much of the question grid as they are able from their own information sheet.
- Each group must then ask questions of groups who have a different letter in order to complete the question grid.
- Once all question grids are complete, the notes can be used for writing about his life or as the basis for a discussion of important aspects of his life.

Elijah McCoy – Question Grid

Where did his family escape from?	Why did his family escape?	When was he born?	Where was he born?	Where did his family move to?
Where did he do his apprentice training?	What did he study?	What did he qualify as?	What was his first job?	What did he have to do in this job?
Why did he take this unskilled job?	What did he invent?	What did his invention do?	When did he receive a patent for it?	How many patents did he hold?
What did his buyers always ask for?				
What do you think people mean when they say something is 'The Real McCoy?'				

Elijah McCoy – Answer Grid

Where did his family escape from?	Why did his family escape?	When was he born?	Where was he born?	Where did his family move to?
Kentucky	His family had been slaves	1844	Ontario, Canada	Michigan, America
Where did he do his apprentice training?	What did he study?	What did he qualify as?	What was his first job?	What did he have to do in this job?
Edinburgh, Scotland	Mechanical Engineering	A mechanic	A fireman on the railway	Oil the moving parts of locomotive trains
Why did he take this unskilled job?	What did he invent?	What did his invention do?	When did he receive a patent for it?	How many patents did he hold?
He could not get a skilled job because he was black	A lubricating system for engines	It lubricated the moving parts of an engine automatically	1872	More than 50
What did his buyers always ask for?				
The real McCoy				
What do you think people mean when they say something is 'The Real McCoy?'				

Elijah McCoy – Sheet A

Elijah McCoy was an engineer who invented a device for lubricating locomotive engines.

It was so successful that buyers only wanted machines that had the 'McCoy System'.

They would always ask 'Is it the real McCoy?'

Notes on Elijah McCoy

Elijah McCoy was born in 1844. His parents had been slaves in Kentucky but they had escaped to Colchester in Ontario.

McCoy was a qualified mechanic but he could not get skilled work. He got a job as a fireman on the railway. Usually trains had to stop for the fireman to oil the working parts.

McCoy invented a device which automatically oiled these parts. He held more than 50 registered patents before he died.

Everyone wanted the 'McCoy System.'



Elijah McCoy – Sheet B

Elijah McCoy was an engineer who invented a device for lubricating locomotive engines.

It was so successful that buyers only wanted machines that had the 'McCoy System'.

They would always ask 'Is it the real McCoy?'

Notes on Elijah McCoy

Elijah McCoy was born in Ontario, Canada. He and his family moved to Michigan in America.

McCoy qualified as a mechanical engineer abroad and then returned to the U.S.A. The only job he could get was oiling the moving parts of locomotive engines.

He invented an automatic system for lubricating engines. He also invented different lubricating systems for all kinds of machines.

Buyers were interested in heavy machinery only if it used the real 'McCoy System.'



Elijah McCoy – Sheet C

Elijah McCoy was an engineer who invented a device for lubricating locomotive engines.

It was so successful that buyers only wanted machines that had the 'McCoy System'.

They would always ask 'Is it the real McCoy?'

Notes on Elijah McCoy

Elijah McCoy went to Edinburgh in Scotland to become an apprentice in mechanical engineering.

After he qualified he could not get a skilled job because he was black.

In 1872 he received a patent for a 'lubricating cap' which automatically oiled the machinery.

He received many more patents before he died in 1929

