

## **Garret Morgan Biography**

### Ways to use the biographies

Studying the lives and achievements of scientists is part of Sc1 ( National Curriculum)-Ideas and evidence in Science - Scientific Enquiry - in the National Curriculum.

All children need to know that Minority Ethnic peoples have contributed to science in the past and present.

Read and discuss the biography of a person relevant to the area of science the children are studying. Many of the biographies have Race Equality issues in them, discuss these with the children and relate to their own experiences of Race Equality Issues.

Comprehension activities could be developed from these biographies.

Collaborative paired or group tasks and discussions could be

- What evidence did the scientists have to identify a problem?
- What did they do?
- How did it make a difference to people's lives?
- What do you think were the main difficulties that faced the scientist?
  
- To role play the life of the scientist.
- Produce a poster about the scientist and her/his discovery.
- Produce a story-board of their life.
- Write a list of questions they would like to ask the scientist if they could.
- How did this scientist achieve? Ask them to listen and discuss in groups the personal qualities of the person. E.g. persistence.
- Have they heard of this person before? If not, why not? Is there another scientist whom they associate with this discovery?
- Who are scientists? What do scientists do? What tools do they need?

# Garret Morgan

1875 - 1963

Garret Morgan was born on March 4<sup>th</sup> 1875 in Kentucky in America. He had ten brothers and sisters. He left school when he was fourteen years old. After he left school, he went to live in Cincinnati, Ohio where he got a job as a handy man in a tailor's shop. Garret Morgan was very good at fixing mechanical things and was always thinking of ways to improve machines.

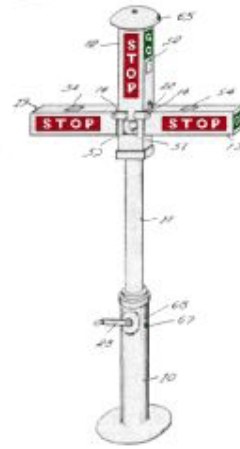


In 1909 when he was thirty-four, he opened his own tailors shop where dresses, suits and coats were made. He employed thirty-two people to work in his tailor's shop. He got married to Mary Anne Hassek and they had three sons.



In 1914 he invented a breathing device called a gas mask, he received a prize for this invention. The judges realised it would allow fire-fighters, soldiers and chemists to work safely, as they would be protected from poisonous gas and smoke. The lives of many soldiers' during World War 1 were saved thanks to Garret Morgan's gas mask.

In 1923, Garret Morgan decided to think of a way to control the traffic, as crossroads were becoming dangerous. He invented the first automatic electric traffic light, which told cars where and when they could go and improved road safety. He sold the rights to his invention for a lot of money.



Garret Morgan decided to set up a newspaper that would fight against racism and report what was happening in the black community. He called the newspaper the Cleveland Call. This newspaper is now called the Cleveland Call & Post. It has the largest circulation of any black newspaper in the USA.

Garret Morgan died in 1963 when he was 88 years old.