



## Black History Month: Elijah McCoy

*Elijah McCoy was a Black Canadian mechanical engineer and creator of 57 inventions. He is best known for his invention of an automatic oil cup, which helped trains run more smoothly and safely for passengers.*

***Elijah Fact:** The phrase “The Real McCoy” was originally used to describe his high-quality work.*

### This week’s activities:

#### Read and Learn – Invent and Build

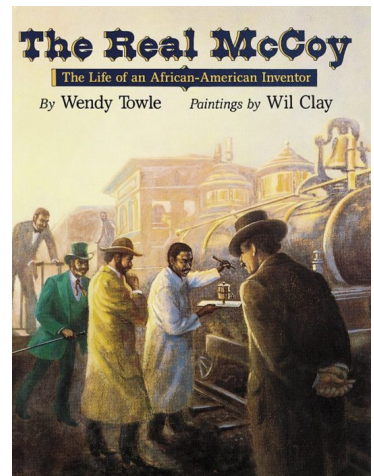
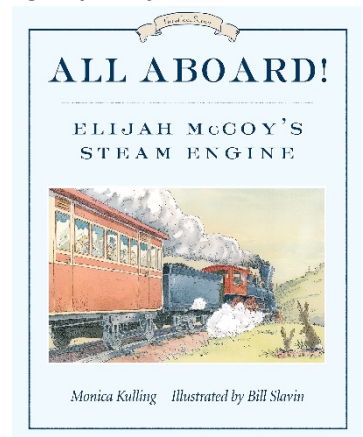
## Read and Learn

### Suggested Materials:

- Pencil, pen, or other writing tool
- Paper or notebook (*optional*)

### Directions:

1. Read [All Aboard! Elijah McCoy’s Steam Engine](#) and [The Real McCoy](#).
2. Talk about what you learned with family and/or friends.
3. Complete the word scramble using the word bank.



### Definitions:

**Railway:** A form of land transportation on which trains travel.

**Patent:** States inventor rights for making and selling inventions for a certain number of years.

**Lubricator:** Allowed trains on railroads to run more smoothly, faster and with fewer stops.

**Oil Man:** A person who used an oil can on railroads and trains.

**Locomotive:** A vehicle that moves under its own power and is used to haul train cars on a railroad.

**Ash Cat:** The firefighter of a steam locomotive, in charge of shoveling coal into the engine.

**Word Scramble:**

1. SATACH
2. LICOVOMEOT
3. GNEISD
4. LOI ANM
5. ACNMEHI
6. ANCDNAIA
7. RAAILWY
8. ATPTEN
9. IUCLBOTRAR
10. EEINGN
11. NNVTIORE
12. TRNAI

## Invent and Build

**Suggested Materials:**

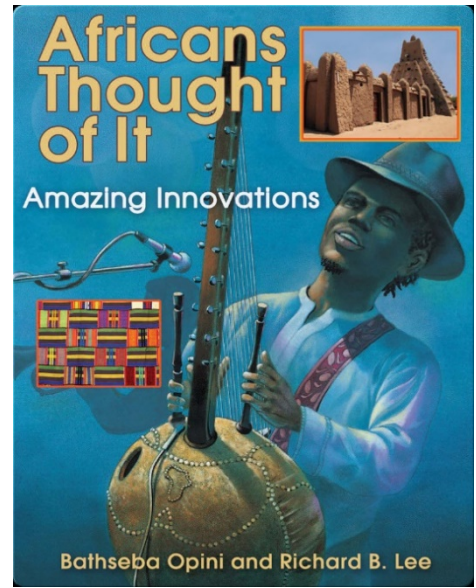
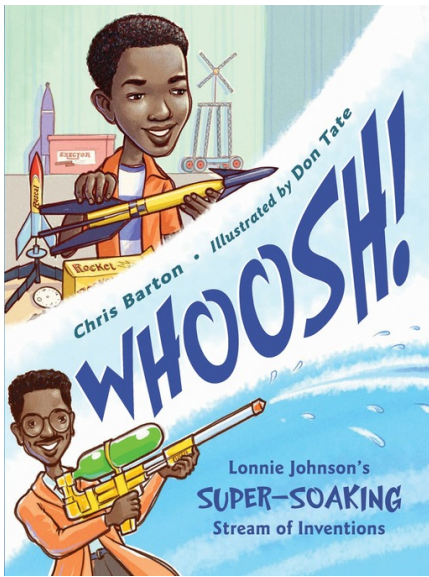
- Pencil, pen or other writing tool
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Recycled materials (boxes, plastic bottles, containers)

**Directions:**

Celebrate McCoy by creating an invention. Use the space below to design your ideas, then find craft supplies or recycled materials from around your home to create your invention.

## Links to eResources:

Check out our [eBooks](https://hpl.overdrive.com/library/kids/) at [hpl.overdrive.com/library/kids/](https://hpl.overdrive.com/library/kids/) on these topics:



[Inventions](#) | [Trains](#) | [Engineering](#)

Search “Inventions” and “Inventor” on [Tumblebooks](#), [KanopyKids](#), and [Hoopla](#)

Watch the [Elijah McCoy Biography](#)

**“Stay in school. Be progressive. Work hard”** – Elijah McCoy

### Word Scramble Answers:

- |              |               |           |               |            |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| 1. Ash cat   | 2. Locomotive | 3. Design | 4. Oil Man    | 5. Machine |
| 6. Canadian  | 7. Railway    | 8. Patent | 9. Lubricator | 10. Engine |
| 11. Inventor | 12. Train     |           |               |            |

You can get a library card at [hpl.ca/online-registration](https://hpl.ca/online-registration).

*If you would like to share one or all your creations, please take a picture and post it to social media using the hashtag, #HPLmakesomething.*



#HPLmakesomething

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