

Student Name
Henry Ford

“Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is probably the reason why so few engage in it.” (BrainyQuote) Almost a hundred years ago, Henry Ford said these words as he was in the middle of changing the world forever. Another Model-T had just rolled off the assembly line and another person was lined up to take it home. This was the beginning of a new generation that would come to know cars as being everyday items all thanks to this one man. Henry Ford.

Henry grew up in Greenfield Township, Michigan on a farm with four siblings and his parents. Henry, being the oldest of the five children, learned to be independent at a young age. He became known around the community as the kid to take anything that was broken to. There was a report of Henry sitting in church and the man next to him handing him a watch that the man claimed hadn't worked in years. At age eight, Henry took the watch, opened it up, played with a few gears in the back, and had the watch running within a few minutes of it being handed to him. Henry got asked to go all over the town and help people with farming equipment and anything else that needed fixing. (Bankston) Henry's father, William, never believed that he could make a living doing what he liked but Henry's incentive was helping people out and making life easier on them.

At age sixteen, Henry decided to take an apprenticeship in Detroit as a machinist. (America's Greatest) His first apprentice was with James F. Flower & Bros. and his second with Detroit Dry Dock Co.. He returned in the summers to the farm, even though he despised the work. He always figured that machines could be made to help out on the farm. Later, he went to work for Westinghouse Company to help service all of their steam engines. This is

where his interest for engines all started. Henry had gotten married in 1888 and in order to support himself, his wife Clara, and their son Edsel, he ran a sawmill on some land his father had gotten him. After running the sawmill and being an engineer at another company, Henry had enough money saved up to start working on his idea of what a great engine would be, the internal combustion engine or gas engine. After a lot of work, Ford had made one that he named "The Quadricycle." 12 years after the Quadricycle, The Ford Motor Company released the Model T.

This is where Henry Ford's career took off. Ford's dreams were now becoming a reality. He wanted to make vehicles cheap enough for anyone with an average income to have the ability to purchase one. The price started at 825 dollars which was relatively cheap at the time. (Henry Ford) Henry didn't think that was good enough though and wanted to make them more affordable. He came up with a plan to increase productivity in the workplace. He upped the pay to 5 dollars a day for his workers. This brought in all of the good mechanics from around the state and even the states. He made the shifts eight hours instead of ten hours. He did this so he could have three even shifts per day. This worked for a while but then Ford decided he needed to figure something else out. The assembly line was the outcome. This maximized efficiency and ended up making one Model-T every 24 seconds by the end of production in 1925. This also dropped the price down to \$300. Almost every family had one Model-T sitting at their house.

Henry Ford is one of the most influential people in the world to this day because without him, we wouldn't be anywhere close to where we are now. Sure, people would have

had cars today but Henry wouldn't have contributed to it. By 1925, roads had been made between cities that made city to city travel much quicker in the Model-T than by horse.

(Wikipedia) The assembly line has worked its way into all aspects of life and manufacturing in 2013, more than one hundred years after Henry Ford's invention.

In all, Henry Ford created yet another stepping stone for the world to move forward on. Without his achievements, some of us might still be riding around in our horse and buggy getting to and from school. It wouldn't be as easy as just hopping in the car and going for a ride to the store. Think about it for yourself. How many days would it have taken you to travel all the places you went just today if you were on foot?

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