

**Sample Curriculum Infusion Exercise:** The following timeline is a compilation from student assignments in HIS-164-01, Spring 2009 in preparation for next year's BRTS selection, *A Fly in the Ointment*. Students searched historical information about science in everyday US life and then attempted to connect their findings to themes from US history. Discussions ensued on themes in American history as varied as: politics, consumerism, innovation, pop culture, race, gender, imperialism (in multiple entries!), technology, and more. Due to time constraints, this exercise has **not** been fact-checked, or submitted to turnitin.com!

- **April 10, 1790: the United States Patent System.** U.S. Constitution Article 1. Section 8: "Congress shall have the power...to promote the progress of science and useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries". This allowed people to profit from their own findings.
- **July 25 1871: Lavatory Paper.** When Seth Wheeler's perforated paper company was not making a profit he decided to start selling it as perforated toilet paper on a small roll to fit in the small restrooms of the time.
- **February 14, 1871: Chewing gum.** Creator/Inventor: Thomas Adams. This substance was originally created as a rubber substitute for rain boots and toys but these innovations failed and that is when Adams put a piece in his mouth. (Here one might discuss that Adams was the "first Anglo-American"...as indigenous Americans had long chewed a natural gum known in Spanish as *chicle*, (from the Nahuatl word for the substance, *tziktli*).
- **1873: Barbed Wire.** Joseph F. Glidden. Wire composed of two zinc-coated steel strands twisted together and having barbs spaced regularly along them. The need for barbed wire arose in the nineteenth century as the American frontier moved westward into the Great Plains and traditional fence materials, wooden rails and stone, became scarce and expensive. In the twentieth century. barbed wire gained importance as an instrument of defense through its use in wartime for entanglements and obstacles.
- **1876:** Thomas Edison invents **tattoo machine**. Meant to be an engraving tool, it became a tool to infuse skin with ink.
- **1885:** John Stith Pemberton- The first **Coca-Cola** recipe was invented originally as a *coca wine* called Pemberton's French Wine Coca. During the Prohibition Era, Pemberton responded by developing Coca-Cola, essentially a carbonated, non-alcoholic version of French Wine Cola. The beverage was named Coca-Cola because, originally, the stimulant mixed in the beverage was coca leaves from South America, which the drug cocaine is derived from. Today the product uses "spent" coca leaves in its ingredients and is still on top of the non alcoholic drink industry today.
- **1920: Tri-color traffic light.** Inventor: William L. Potts, a police officer concerned about all the vehicles on the road. However, because he was a government employee he was never able to patent his product that we use in excess today. Note: "Excess" is editorializing on the part of the students.
- **Early 1940s: Napalm**, an incendiary material developed during World War II by Harvard scientists cooperating with the U.S. Army and used in bombs and flame throwers. Napalm is based on a mixture of gasoline, sometimes mixed with other petroleum fuels, and a thickening agent. The thickener, to which the term napalm was originally applied, turns the mixture into a thick jelly that flows under pressure, as when shot from a flame thrower, and sticks to a target as it burns.
- **Early 1940s:** Most Black American soldiers in WWII served in segregated service units commanded by white officers, and the Red Cross maintained separate black and white blood banks even though Dr. Charles Drew, and African American, had **invented the process of storing blood plasma**.
- **1943:** James Wright invents **Silly Putty**. He wanted a replacement for rubber, this was not it. But it is fun to bounce.
- **1956: Television remote control** called "Lazy Bones". Inventor: Robert Adler for the Zenith Radio Corporation Description: the remote was the first time ultrasonic sound frequencies would be used in the home.
- **1964 and 1967:** Texas Instruments creates the **first laser-guided bomb** and the **first handheld electronic calculator**.
- **1969: Internet.** Department of Defense- The internet as we know it grew out of a U.S. Defense Department program called ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network) whose purpose was to conduct research into computer networking in order to provide a secure and survivable communications system in case of war.
- **1974:** Spencer Silver invents weak adhesive; three years later, Art Fry takes idea and makes **Post-it Notes**.