Henry Ford and the Assembly Line

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Individual Website
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For my National History Day project, I decided to research Henry Ford and the Assembly Line. Ever since I was little I always was interested in engineering and how things work. I wasn’t really going for Henry Ford in the first place, my first choice for my NHD topic was John Muir. I almost chose this because John Muir was from Wisconsin, and that is the state that I live in, but I chose Henry Ford because I thought Henry Ford was really influential and a really successful man. My family was really supportive of my choice that we actually went to the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. Another reason I chose Henry Ford was that I can relate to him. All of his innovations greatly affected me and other peoples lives altogether.

I conducted my research by organizing all of my websites, books, and primary sources I found on the web. The first thing I did was find a bunch of websites related to the life of Henry Ford and his assembly line. I put them all in a Google Doc labeled under “websites”. Then I went to the library to find books about Henry’s life and his career, I put that into my Google Doc under “books”. After all that, I found videos related to Henry Ford’s work. When I went to the Henry Ford Museum I took pictures of plaques of information that I thought I might need but it turns out I only needed half of it. After the museum, I continued to gather websites and more primary sources. Overall, my best source was the Henry Ford website because it had many historic photos and documents about Henry Ford.

I created my project with the new website builder NHDWebCentral that the National History Day staff put together. I think it worked pretty well. The first thing I did on my website was to set up my home page. Learning the website builder was a little hard at first but I got used to it. I had a visual representation of what my website was going to look like in my mind so I put
that representation on the website itself. I set up my navigation bar up and linked the pages to it so it would go to the page it was supposed to. I had to write all my information on the builder first then I had to copy them into Google to count the words. When I had my 1,200 words I copied and pasted them into my website. I inserted all the pictures and videos, gave them captions and then I was done.

Henry Ford and his Assembly Line relates to the theme of Breaking Barriers in History because of his idea of the Assembly Line made producing cars faster and cheaper. When Henry Ford introduced his famous $5 workday enabled his employees and other people to buy the cars they built, purchase homes, decorate their homes and support their families.
Works Cited

Primary Sources


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Portrait of Henry Ford as a Child, 1865-1866. 1865-1866. The Henry Ford,

Accessed 23 Jan. 2020. This image shows Henry Ford as a child. I used this in the early life section of my website.

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**Secondary Sources**

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Burgan, Michael. *Who Was Henry Ford?* Penguin Young Readers Group, 2014. This book was a very simple way to show how Henry Ford and helped me write the early life section of my website.

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Accessed 25 Nov. 2019. This website from the ford company helped me understand how the assembly line functioned and how it evolved over time.


*Henry Ford Museum*. Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Michigan. I took pictures of the plaques in the museum because they had very interesting information on the cars and Henry's life.


Reis, Ronald A. *Henry Ford for Kids: His Life and Ideas, with 21 Activities*. Chicago, Chicago Review Press, 2016. This book helped me a lot in the early career section of my website. It gave me a lot of information.


The assembly line concept eliminated this by having both the worker and all of the required tools at the exact spot where they needed to come together. Ford also developed the idea of component assembly where one team builds one part (engine) and another team builds the. Continue Reading. Related Questions. More Answers Below. What revolutionary manufacturing method was developed by Henry Ford? Who is the Henry Ford of electric cars? Henry Ford began experimenting with automobiles during his time at the Edison Illuminating Company. He was always an inventor, so the automobiles that he built himself were either prototypes or technology demonstrations. Before the creation of the Model A, he was directly involved in the construction of the following vehicles The Ford assembly line in 1913. (Wikimedia Commons/public domain). By Kat Eschner. smithsonianmag.com December 1, 2016. Forget the Model Tâ€™s real innovation was the moving assembly line. Assembly line work was, and still is, incredibly monotonous. The line was seen as an insult to skilled craftsmen and another example of the overwhelming patriarchal control a company could have over its workers in the age of mass production. The horror that was felt about assembly-line style mass production is seen in films like Charlie Chaplinâ€™s Modern Times and Fritz Langâ€™s 1927 film Metropolis. One 1920s machine worker at a Ford plant told a journalist, The machine isnâ€™t my boss. Henry Ford began experimenting with automobiles during his time at the Edison Illuminating Company. He was always an inventor, so the automobiles that he built himself were either prototypes or technology demonstrations. Before the creation of the Model A, he was directly involved in the construction of the following vehicles The Ford assembly line in 1913. (Wikimedia Commons/public domain). By Kat Eschner. smithsonianmag.com December 1, 2016. Forget the Model Tâ€™s real innovation was the moving assembly line. Assembly line work was, and still is, incredibly monotonous. The line was seen as an insult to skilled craftsmen and another example of the overwhelming patriarchal control a company could have over its workers in the age of mass production. The horror that was felt about assembly-line style mass production is seen in films like Charlie Chaplinâ€™s Modern Times and Fritz Langâ€™s 1927 film Metropolis. One 1920s machine worker at a Ford plant told a journalist, The machine isnâ€™t my boss. Henry Ford's Assembly Line. In 1913, Ford launched the first moving assembly line for the mass production of the automobile. This new technique decreased the amount of time it took to build a car from 12 hours to two and a half, which in turn lowered the cost of the Model T from $850 in 1908 to $310 by 1926 for a much-improved model. Henry Ford Museum. Ford was an avid collector of Americana, with a particular interest in technological innovations and the lives of ordinary people: farmers, factory workers, shopkeepers and business people. He decided to create a place where their lives and interests could be celebrated. Henry Ford is one of the most prominent Inventors and Innovators in American history and one of the greats in the automotive industry. He started his career as a machinist in Michigan and would eventually move on to work for Thomas Edison as an engine. Ford pioneered much about the modern industry through his work and has forever changed the world. While Ford was an all-around impeccable businessman, he made many notable inventions throughout the years. Assembly Line. The Model A was revolutionary and would slowly provide people with a fast easy means of transportation. Advertisement. The demand for the vehicle skyrocketed and Henry Ford needed a new efficient means of keeping up with production. Henry Ford introduced the first automobile assembly line at his Highland Park plant in Michigan, which changed the manufacturing industry forever. Ford had previously observed the assembly line concept in slaughterhouses in the Midwest and was also inspired by the conveyor belt system that was common in many grain warehouses in that region. He wished to incorporate these ideas into the information Taylor suggested to implement a new system in his own factory. One of the first innovations in production that Ford implemented was the installation of gravity slides that facilitated the movement of parts from one work area to the next.