

**Hedy Lamarr's Double Life:
Hollywood Legend and Brilliant Inventor**
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Lesson

Invention Idea for a Marketable Product

INTRODUCTION: Hedy Lamarr, was a beautiful Hollywood star in the 1930s-1950s. She was also a noted inventor, who, during World War II, developed a groundbreaking communications system that still remains essential to the security of today's technology.

TIME ALLOCATION: 25-30 minutes (basic lesson time)

GRADE LEVEL: 3-5

MATERIALS:

- Book- *Hedy Lamarr's Double Life: Hollywood Legend and Brilliant Inventor* by Laurie Wallmark
- Visual 1 – What is an Invention
- Activity Sheet- Invention Idea for a Marketable Product
- Writing tools
- Document camera

OBJECTIVES:

- The student will learn about the actress Hedy Lamar who was both an actress and inventor.
- The student will understand that an inventor is not necessarily an entrepreneur.
- The student will create an idea for an invention that could be marketed to potential consumers.

ECONOMIC CONCEPTS:

- **Human Resources** – the quality and quantity of human effort directed toward producing goods and services.
- **Human Capital** – labor resources that can be improved though investments in education, training, and health care.
- **Entrepreneur** –The individual who comes up with an idea for a good or service and who organizes the human, natural, and capital resources to produce that good or service.
- **Productive resources**—the natural, human (labor), and capital resources used to produce a good or service.
- **Goods**—tangible products used by consumers or producers.

- **Services**—beneficial work which does not result in a tangible product—for example, haircuts and medical care.
- **Profit**—the difference between revenues and the costs entailed in producing or selling a good or service. Profit is the reward to a successful entrepreneur.

VIRGINIA STANDARD OF LEARNING- HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

- K.8 The student will match simple descriptions of work that people do with the names of those jobs.
- 1.7 The student will explain the difference between goods and services and describe how people are consumers and producers of goods and services.
- CE.12 The student will apply social science skills to understand the United States economy by: c) describing the types of business organizations and the role of entrepreneurship

PROCEDURE:

1. Introduce the lesson by showing the students the cover of *Hedy Lamarr's Double Life: Hollywood Legend and Brilliant Inventor* by Laurie Wallmark.
2. Explain that this is the story of a famous actress and inventor. Ask them if they the book's illustrator did a good job portraying the two sides of Hedy Lamarr. Could they tell which side depicted the inventor and which side represented the actress?
3. Read the book to the students if time allows. You may also show them a YouTube reading. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rx-tM9zlkN8> [15 minutes]
4. Explain that Hedy Lamarr liked to invent things that she thought would help people and solve problems. For example, she designed a glow-in-the dark dog collar and an accordion-fold pocket attached to tissue boxes for stashing used tissues. However, she was not an entrepreneur. Define entrepreneur as: *The individual who comes up with an idea for a good or service and who organizes the human, natural, and capital resources to produce that good or service.* She did not make, market, and sale her inventions.
5. Display the visual, What is an Inventor?, and review its content with the students.
6. Distribute the activity sheet, Invention Idea for a Marketable Product, and writing tools.
7. Read the directions to the students. Ask if there are any questions. Students may work individually, in pairs, or in small groups. This may also be presented as a teacher-conducted activity by displaying the worksheet, soliciting student responses, and filling in the answers.
8. Allow students time to complete the activity sheet and encourage them to share their ideas with the class.
9. Conclude the lesson by asking the students why they think Hedy Lamar did not become an entrepreneur and try to market her inventions. [possible responses include: She did not need the money. In the 1930s there were few women inventors and entrepreneurs. She did not have the time.]

Visual-

What is an Invention?

- An invention is a new thing created to solve a problem or help people.
- An inventor is the person who creates a way to solve a problem.
- The consumer is someone who wants to use the new invention.

Can you think a problem that could be solved?

Do you have an idea for making a good or a service that could solve it?



Activity-

Invention Idea for a Marketable Product

Product's Purpose	Sketch of Product
Product's Intended Consumer	Resources needed to make the product

Product Name: