Henry Ford

An inventor, an Engineer, and the Founding Father of the Ford Motor Company.

Born July 30, 1863, near Dearborn, MI
Died 1947
Founding Father of the Automobile?

The Wonderous Child

→ Tinkered with farm tools and repaired watches as a side job
→ Proved the power of steam with a tea kettle
→ First idea of a powered carriage from a local person that mounted a steam engine on wheels

Henry Ford's Beginning

→ First major job
  → Detroit Edison Illumination Company (1891)
→ Development of Ford's first automobile
  → Edsel is born (1893)
  → Fords only child

The Quadricycle

→ Completed 1896
→ Created in a shop behind his house
→ Inspired Ford to create more vehicles

Quadricycle Specifications

→ Tiller steering
→ Gasoline powered engine
  → 2 cylinder, 4 cycle
→ 2 speed transmission, no reverse
→ Steel frame
→ 500 lbs.
→ Top speed 20 mph
→ 3 gallon capacity gas tank
The Beginning of the Company

- Left Detroit Edison Illumination Company
- To build cars
- 11 investors totaling $28,000
- First factory was the closed down Detroit Wagon Factory
- Faced bankruptcy after one month of operation

The First Ford Motor Company Factory

The Beginning of the Company

- First car sold to a Chicago Dentist
- Planning
- Model A, most successful of the first cars
- 1,700 Model A's produced in 15 months
- Expansion into Canada at the end of the first year of operation

The Model T

- Introduced 1908
- The ninth model to be produced, by Ford
- Achieved Ford's dream of a reliable, efficient, easy to operate and maintain, handled well, and reasonably priced

The Assembly Line

- Introduced 1913
- First test run -- assembly of transmissions
- Attributes
  - Brought the car to the workers
  - Less specialized workers needed
  - Higher worker turnover rate
  - Repetitive action for workers

Benefits attributable to the Model T

- Begins construction of industrial facility on the Rouge River in Dearborn (1917)
Benefits attributable to the Model T

- Popularity of Ford enticed him to run for the U.S. Senate but loses the bid

The Model A

- Ford shut down all factories for six months to retool for new production
- Six months shut down remarkable for its time, almost every piece was changed
- Nicknamed the Baby Lincoln since it resembles the Lincoln
- Named from the successful 1903 Model A

The End of a Legend

- Model T is discontinued (1927)
- 15,007,033 units produced, world record
- Only beaten by the Volkswagen Beetle
- The Beetle took twice as long to produce the same amount of cars

The Later Years of Henry Ford

- 1932 – Production of the first successful V8
- 1930s (late) – Edsel becomes President
- 1942 – Edsel dedicates factories to the WWII wartime production effort
- 1943 – Death of Edsel
- 1947 – Death of Henry Ford

Complementary Items

The Traffic Signal

Complementary Items

Storm Apron