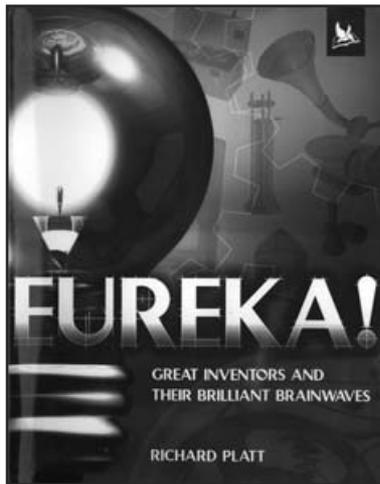


# Eureka! Great Inventors and Their Brilliant Brainwaves

Reviewed by Bridget A Egan, University College Winchester



Eureka! tells the stories, in brief, of a range of different inventions and discoveries, from Galileo's investigation of the pendulum, to the 'birth' of the World Wide Web.

Arranged in five sections, dealing with different aspects of human life, each doublepage spread offers the story of a particular invention and the people who contributed to its development. It is very well laid out and illustrated. Each story is presented under a set of headings: a brief description of the invention or phenomenon, a biographical note about the inventor/discoverer, a narrative of the 'eureka moment' (if there was one) and further information such as developments since the discovery.

The text is suitable for children at the upper end of Key Stage 2 and the formulaic layout makes it highly suitable for inclusion in literacy material on non-linear, non-fiction texts.

There is a clear chronological chart, a glossary and a relatively full index to help the young investigator find the material s/he is looking for. In spite of relatively limited text on each spread, Richard Platt conveys something of the excitement of scientific discovery and technological achievement, whetting the appetite for further information.

I found the sections slightly odd, in that the categories used are not particularly consistent, or very useful.

Chapter One, entitled 'Everyday Life and Health', includes pages on the pendulum, gravity and the cotton gin, as well as on frozen food, antibiotics and the microwave oven.

Chapter Two, 'Getting Around' has a page on powered flight and the hovercraft.

The other chapters are entitled:

- 'Lenses and Light' (e.g. telescopes and photography)
- 'Electricity' (e.g. battery, telephone and lightbulb),
- 'Patience and Planning' (dealing with inventions which were the result of patient investigation rather than 'eureka moments').

However, this aside, the book is well worth the investment. We have not nearly enough useful source books to raise children's interest in technological and scientific developments. This is an attractive book, and one which will be a welcome addition to the junior school library.

## Eureka! Great Inventor and Their Brilliant Brainwaves

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Appropriate Content	✓✓✓✓	Generic Use	
Pupil/Student Use	✓✓✓✓✓	One of a series	
Teacher Resource	✓✓✓	Photocopiable	
Visuals	✓✓✓✓✓	Pupil/student activities	
Overall Style	✓✓✓✓✓	Cross-curricular	✓