

for a new process of doing something. **E.g. A new mechanical process for making jalebis.**

Does a patent have a term?

A patent lasts for **20 years**, after which your invention becomes free for anyone to use. During these 20 years, you can give a “license” and ask for a fee from those who want to use your invention.

What can be patented?

- ✚ An “invention” and not a “discovery”
- ✚ Something that is new or “novel” – For example, Square wheels instead of round

Something that has a “use” and can be “made” in an industry or on a commercial scale – **A doctor cannot patent a method of treating a patient.**

Safety Pin, Medicines, Polaroid Camera, Light Bulb and Telephone are a few examples of patents which we see every day.

Why protect inventions as a ‘patent’?

Patents provide incentives to people by offering them recognition for their innovativeness and reward for their marketable inventions. These incentives encourage innovation, which assures that the quality of human life is continuously enhanced.

Additional Notes:

Some more examples of famous inventions and their inventor;

Electric light bulb – Thomas Alva Edison

Mechanical Television – John Logie Baird

First petrol – or gasoline-powered automobile – Karl Benz

First Mechanical Computer – Charles Babbage

Inventions versus Discoveries – As discussed, only inventions can be patented, and NOT discoveries. Differentiating between both will help your students better understand the concept of patents.

Discovery: Uncovering, unearthing, finding something that was already in existence. Christopher Columbus “discovered” America in 1492. Isaac Newton “discovered” gravity in 1665. Ruins of the Indus Valley Civilization was “discovered” by Alexander Cunningham in 1856. America, the Indus Valley Civilization and gravity had all existed. It took Columbus, Cunningham and Newton to find out about their existence for the first time.



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<https://pixabay.com/en/map-discovery-america-ship-train-3409359/>

Invention: A new thing that has been made by someone for the first time. The telephone did not exist in nature. It is a mechanical object that was “invented” by Alexander Graham Bell.