

Lesson 2 - Traits of an Innovator

approximately 45 minutes

Lesson Plan

Step	Approach	Activity	Duration
A	Overarching Question of the Day	Do innovators share common traits?	2 Minutes
B	Context-Setting Activity (in Computer Lab)	Let's juxtapose two innovators, Henry Ford and Steve Wozniak, to find out if they share common traits. Watch: Steve Wozniak highlight video at www.oninnovation.com/innovators/detail.aspx?innovator=Wozniak View: The life of Henry Ford at www.oninnovation.com/innovators/detail.aspx?innovator=Ford	10 Minutes
C	Reflection and Synthesis	Place Ford's unique traits under Ford and Wozniak's unique traits under Wozniak. Place those traits shared by both in the center. Use <i>Activity Sheet 1 - Common Traits of Innovators</i> .	5 Minutes
D	Report Out	Whole group share-time of Venn diagram information. Teacher transcribes information onto chart-paper-size Venn diagram for class display.	5 Minutes
E	Individual Activity	Identify the traits that you personally share with innovators. Use <i>Activity Sheet 2 - Personal Traits Shared with Innovators</i> . Use <i>Resource Sheet 3 - Master Glossary for Innovation</i> .	8 Minutes
F	Critical Thinking and Creativity	What skills or traits are needed for success in the 21st century? How are these traits similar or different than traits of an innovator? Use <i>Resource Sheet 1</i> and learn about some core traits of an innovator. Use <i>Activity Sheet 3</i> to glean eight traits.	5 Minutes
G	Hands-on Activity	Participate in the hands-on activity to practice the traits of an innovator Use <i>Resource Sheet 2 - Traits of an Innovator and 21st-Century Skills</i> .	10 Minutes

Lesson 2 - Traits of an Innovator

Common Traits

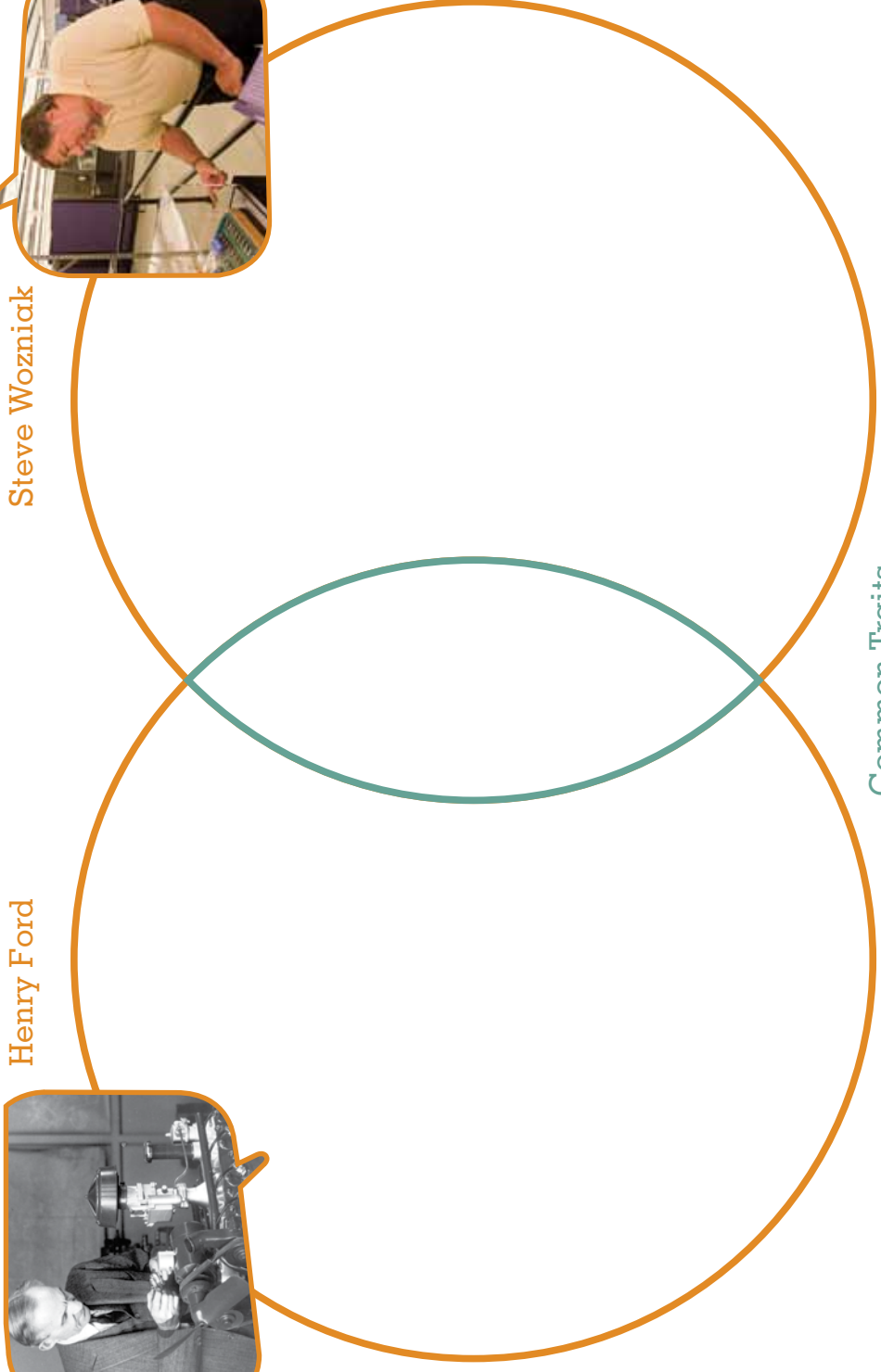
Activity Sheet 1



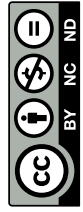
Henry Ford



Steve Wozniak



Common Traits



Lesson 2 - Traits of an Innovator
Personal Traits Shared with Innovators

Activity Sheet 2

Innovator Trait Bank



Refer to Master Glossary for Innovation to learn more.

Complete the following chart describing five of your personal traits from the Innovator Trait Bank above and the innovator you identify that trait with:

Personal Innovator Trait	Innovator Who Shares This Trait
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

What are the four indispensable traits of an innovator?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



Lesson 2 - Traits of an Innovator and 21st-Century Skills

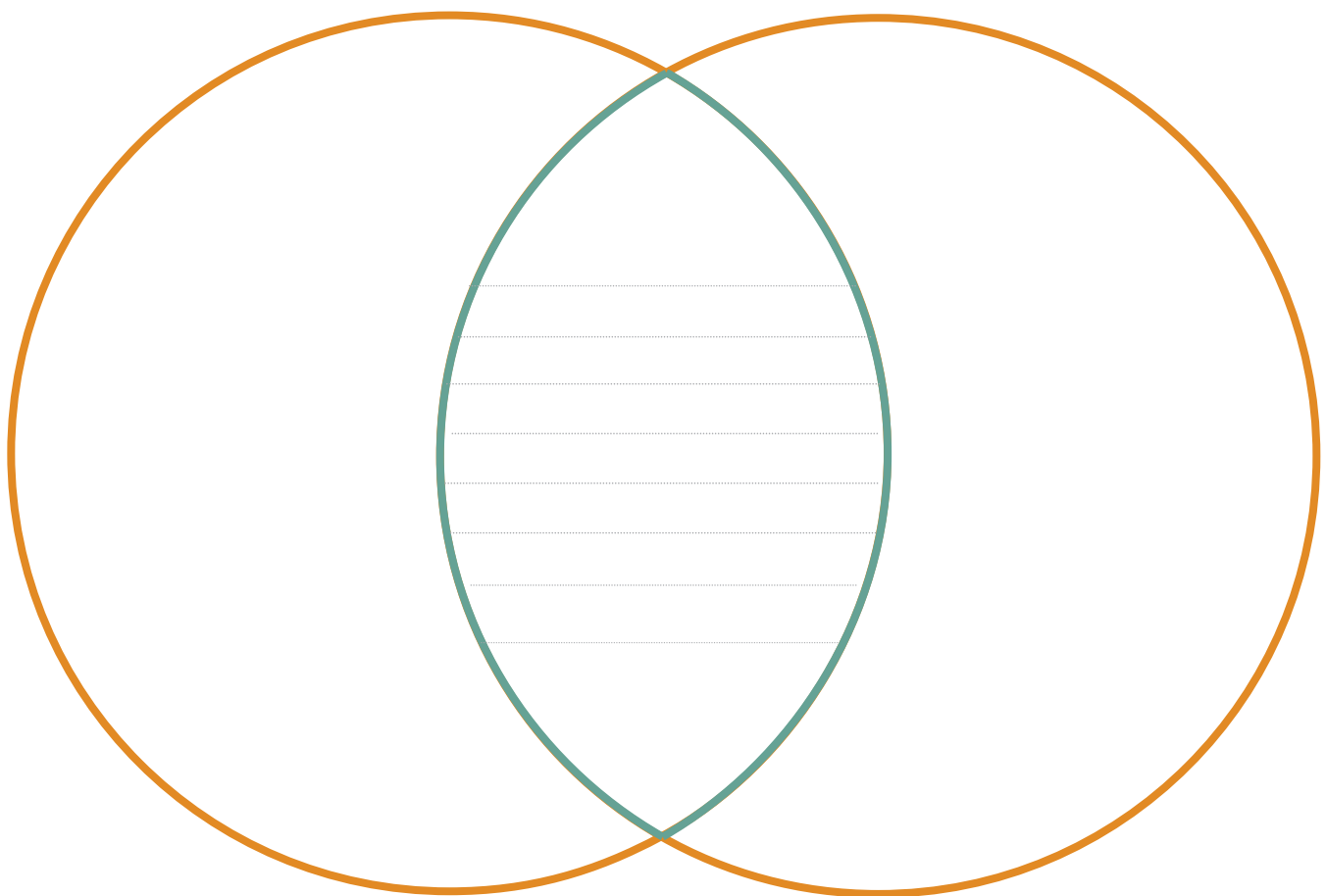
Activity Sheet 3

Everyone is talking about essential 21st-century skills that are needed to succeed in life today. What are some of these 21st-century skills? Is there any connection between these skills and traits that innovators, past and present, have practiced? Let's find out.

Complete the word search activity using Resource Sheet 1. Glean eight traits from the word search resource sheet that start with the letter "C." Place them in the middle section of this Venn diagram.

Traits of an Innovator

21st-Century Skills



Common Traits

Lesson 2 - Traits of an Innovator
and 21st-Century Skills

Resource Sheet 1

Word Search

C B T A N E E B I O G Y W A L P K Z U
 R F P L E B F P B A A R P Z R R O E N
 I L O E R E S M D X D A I C F O W Z N
 T R O D B O W J S O A N V O S B A C M
 I D X U I E N S H P D I P M M L R O Y
 C E G T N C I I M J G L H M S E T L D
 A D N I D O M K Y X C P J U K M I L N
 L N I T I M E Y F H U I G N H S S A C
 T I T T V P F Z L T R C Q I O O T B R
 H M A A I E E O E J I S I C Z L I O E
 I C V O D T J K X F O I N A R V C R A
 N I I D U I E A I S S D K T L I L A T
 K V T N A T A K B X I S R I Q N Q T I
 I I O A L I I R L S T S U O Z G W I V
 N C M C I V P H E V Y O E N U L T O I
 G S R N S E N D H K U R Q I W D G N T
 J D D V T M D P U L N C O P R X X L Y
 D U W Q I B G N I G N E L L A H C W V
 S P U A C W C O N N E C T I V I T Y C

- artistic
- can-do attitude
- challenging
- civic-minded
- collaboration
- communication
- competitive
- creativity
- critical thinking
- cross-disciplinary
- curiosity
- connectivity
- flexible
- individualistic
- motivating
- problem solving



Lesson 2 - Traits of an Innovator and 21st-Century Skills

Resource Sheet 2

1. Let's employ some 21st-Century Skills and Traits of an Innovator through this fun hands-on activity.

- **Supplies needed:** 10 tall plastic cups and two large rubber bands.
- **Goal:** In teams of six, build a stacked-up structure of any kind with the plastic cups provided.
- **Ground rules:**
 - a. Needs to be done as a team vs. individually. Every step needs **collaboration**. One person cannot do it while others watch.
 - b. Cannot use your hands or legs directly to stack up the structure. Be **curious** and **creative**. You can only use the tool provided—that is, the rubber band to build the structure.
 - c. Structures need to be vertical and artistic vs. horizontal or simplistic. Think **critically**.
 - d. Keep reminding yourself and other team members about using some of the common innovator traits or 21st-century skills.

2. Find out more about 21st-century skills and innovation from these websites:

www.imls.gov/about/21stcskills.aspx?id=14

<http://p21.org/index.php>

www.thinkfinity.org/21st-century-skills



Lesson 2 - Traits of an Innovator
Master Glossary for Innovation

Term	Definition
Adaptive	Able to adjust oneself to different conditions; able to make suitable to requirements or conditions
Antiestablishment	Opposed to or working against the existing power structure or mores, as of society or government
Artistic	Conforming to the standard of art; satisfying aesthetic requirements
Challenging	Arousing competitive interest, thought or action; to cause provocation
Competitive	Inclined, desiring or suited to compete
Concept oriented	Inclined toward something conceived in the mind
Creative	The quality of having the ability or power to create
Curiosity	The desire to know or having interests or passions leading to inquiry
Determined	A firm or fixed intention to achieve a desired end or action
Egotistical	Having an exaggerated sense of self-importance or ability
Empathetic	Someone who is sensitive to or understands the needs or states of others
Empowering	Giving power or authority to; to enable or permit
Entrepreneur	One who organizes, manages and assumes the risks of business or is enterprising
Hardworking	Someone who works diligently and often long hours
Imaginative	The act or power of forming a mental image of something not present to the senses or never before wholly perceived in reality
Individuality	A total character peculiar to and distinguishing one individual from another
Influencing	The act or power of producing an effect without apparent exertion of force or direct exercise of command
Innovative	Characterized by, tending to, or introducing innovation or complete new methods of doing something

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Master Glossary for Innovation

Resource Sheet 3
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Term	Definition
Motivational	The act or influence of causing a person to act
Opportunistic	Taking advantage of opportunities as they arise
Passion for excellence	Intense, driving or overwhelming feeling or conviction to be excellent or do a superior job
Persistent	The action or fact of persisting; going on resolutely or stubbornly in spite of opposition, importunity or warning
Positive minded	Having an optimistic view about one's self, life, living and other people
Radical	Marked by a considerable departure from the usual or traditional
Risk taker	Someone who is not fearful of uncertainty and may even enjoy risky, speculative situations
Sense of concept	Ability to think of an abstract or generic idea generalized from particular instances
Simplistic	Of or relating to, or characterized by, a simple concept
Solution oriented	Intellectually or functionally directed toward an action or process of solving a problem
Team player	Someone who willingly works or plays in cooperation with others
Unconventional	Being out of the ordinary; not bound by or in accordance with convention
Visionary	Having or marked by foresight and imagination