



# HOW TO BE AN INVENTOR

by Raye Lankford

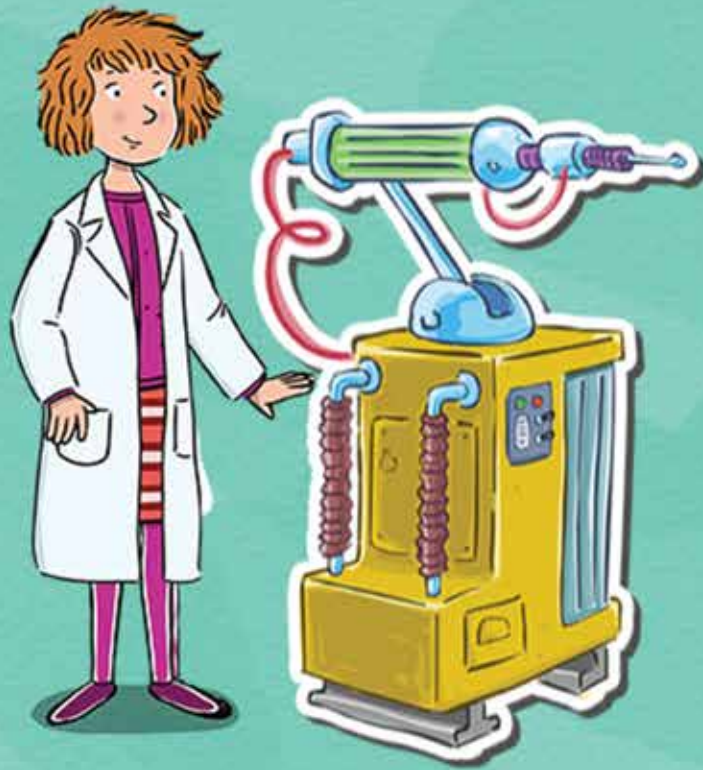


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Are you **curious** about how things work? Do you like to come up with new ways to do things? Then you have what it takes to be an inventor!

**curious:** if you are curious, you want to learn or know more.

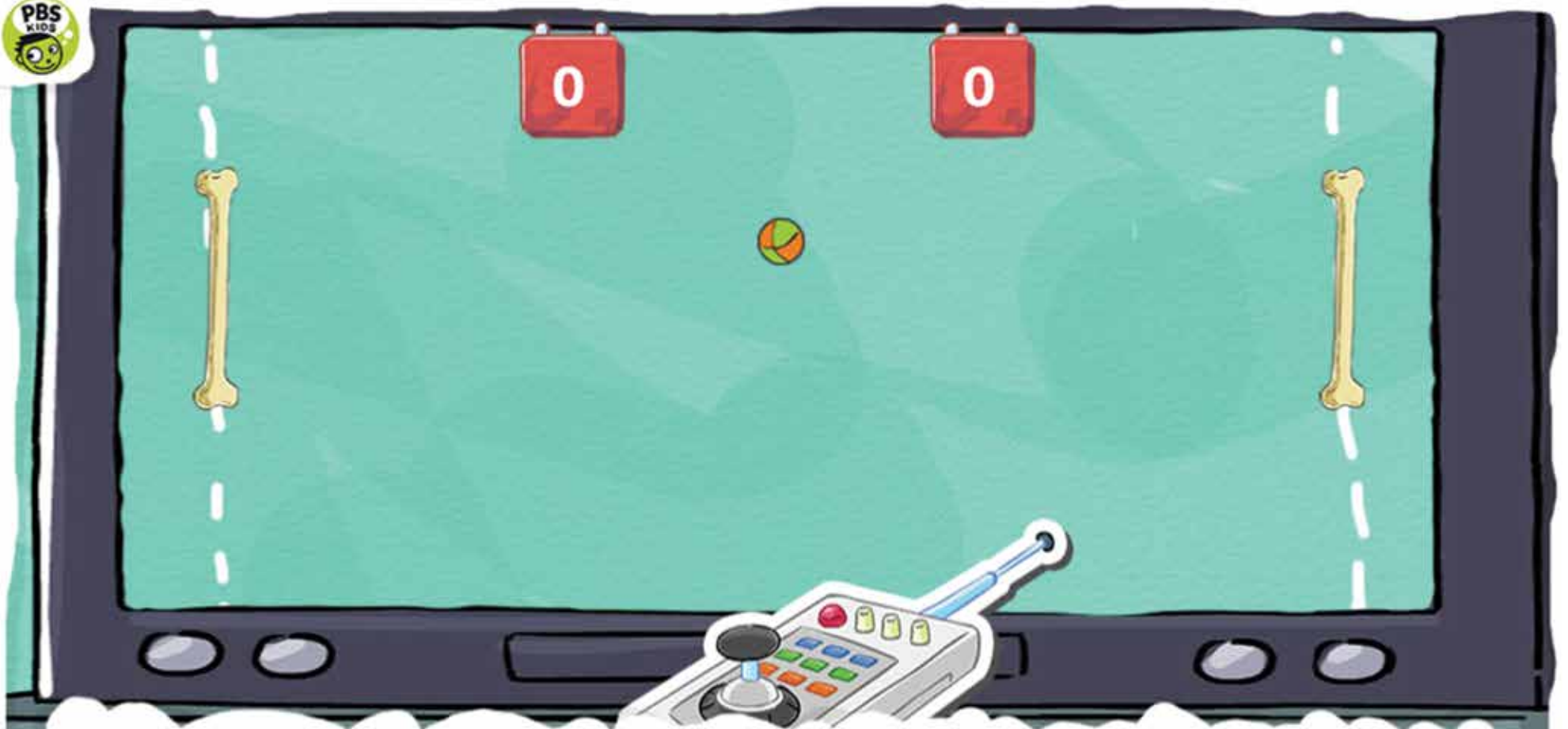
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Inventors come up with all kinds of cool things. Sarah Mather invented a telescope for submarines. An engineer named Lonnie George Johnson **developed** a really great water squirter!

**developed:** when you develop something, you make something new.

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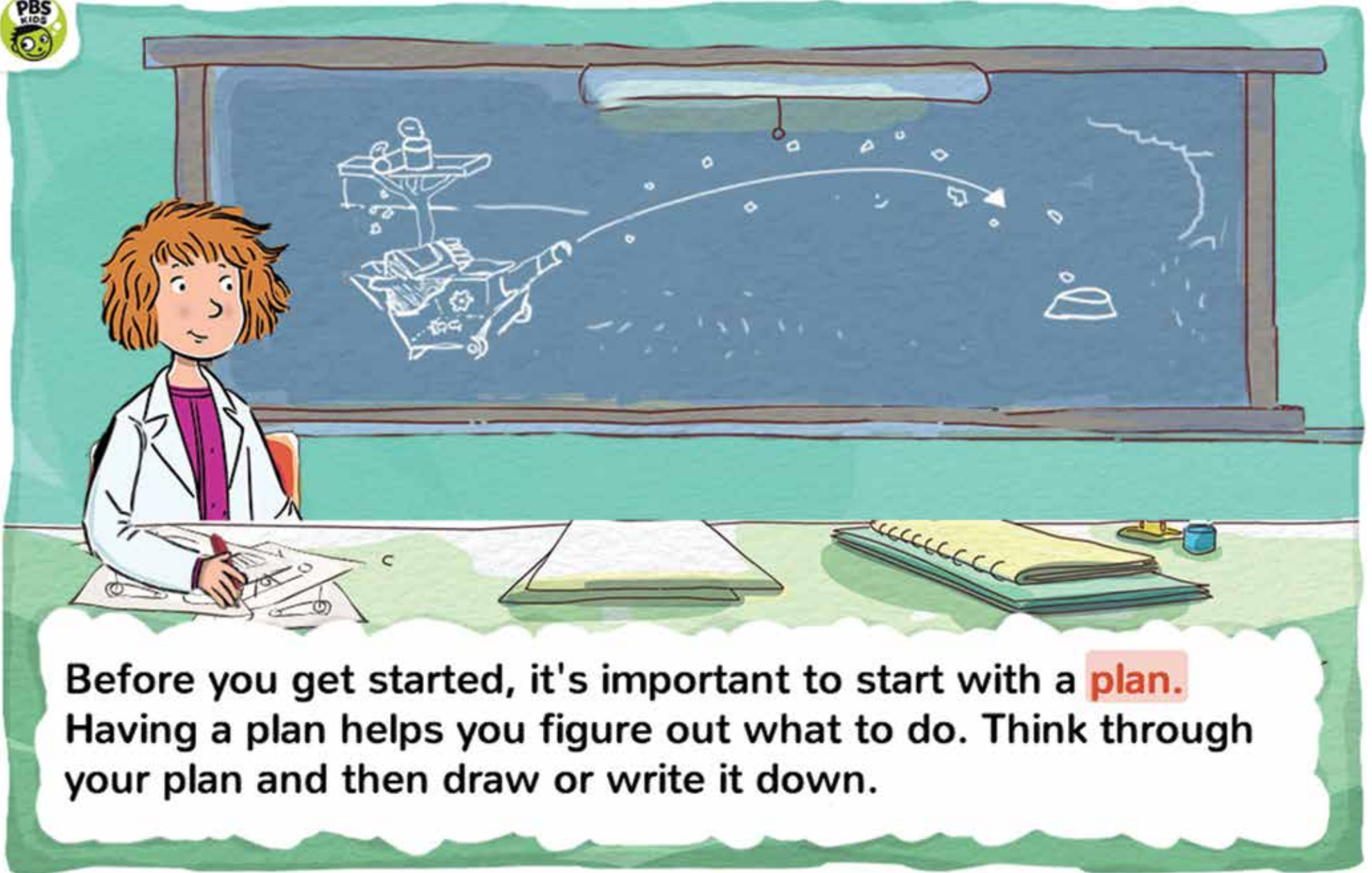
Think of all those fun video games you and your friends play. They may never have existed if a guy named Allan Alcorn hadn't created the very first video game ever.

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If you want to be an inventor, find something that needs **improvement**. Say you'd like to sleep late on weekends, but you can't because your dog wants breakfast. Inventing a way to feed your dog without waking up would be a big improvement!

**improvement:** when you improve something, you make it better.



Before you get started, it's important to start with a **plan**.  
Having a plan helps you figure out what to do. Think through  
your plan and then draw or write it down.

**plan:** when you have a plan, it means you have something in your mind to do. A plan is how you will do it.

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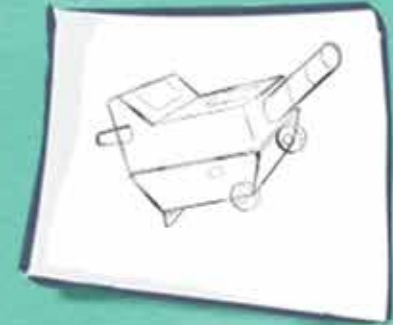


Once you have a plan for your invention, you may have to **experiment** with different **materials**. If your first **attempt** doesn't work, don't worry. You can always try again.

**experiment:** when you experiment, you do tests to find something out. You try different things and see what happens.

**materials:** material is what something is made from.

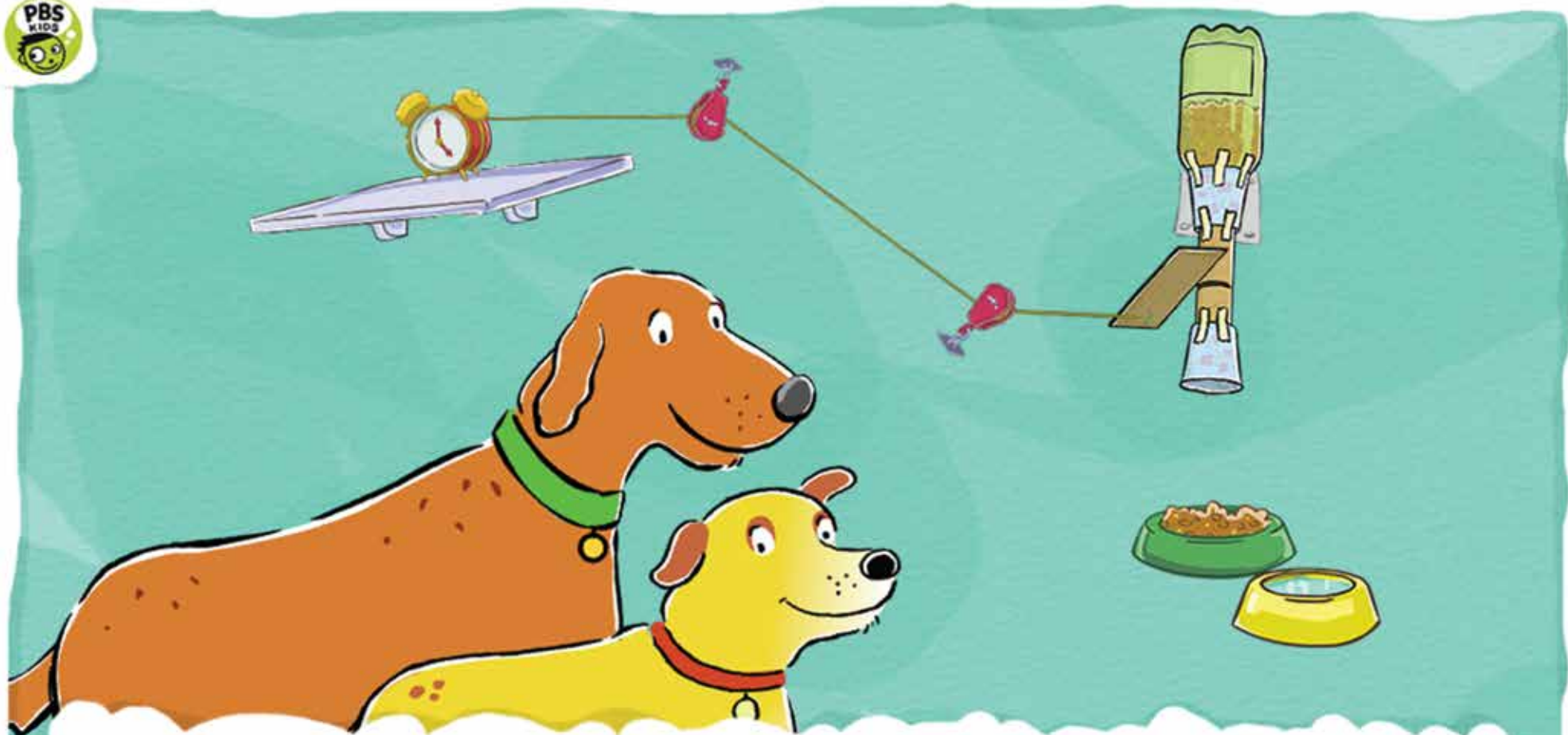
**attempt:** to attempt means to try.



Inventors know that making mistakes is part of the process. They keep on trying until they are able to **produce** an invention that works.

**produce:** when you produce something, it means you make it.





In time, you'll have an invention that does what you **envisioned**, even if how it does it is different than what you originally planned.

**envisioned**: when you envision something, it means you picture it in your mind or imagine it.

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Of course, if you **succeed** in inventing something really great, it may be so much fun that your dogs will ask to see it again and again. Because everybody loves a really good invention!

**succeed**: when you succeed, you are able to do it in the end.

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