ArtsBridge presents Innovation Nation Live! Educator Guide

The two-time Emmy® Award-winning Saturday morning show comes to life in a brand new production. Like the award-winning television show, The Henry Ford’s INNOVATION NATION – LIVE! will inspire audiences with entertaining and educational stories about yesterday and today’s visionaries and innovators – highlighting major turning points in the past and present that influenced the fields of science, technology, engineering, math, the environment, and social justice.

The Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation is produced in partnership by The Henry Ford and Litton Entertainment, a leading independent production, and distribution company. The Griffin production will bring to life the world-changing innovations featured in the television show and preserved in the museum’s archives.
ABOUT THE GRIFFIN THEATRE COMPANY

The Griffin Theatre Company originated in Chicago’s Logan Square neighborhood in a factory loft the company renovated in 1988. The mission of the Griffin Theatre Company is to create extraordinary and meaningful theatrical experiences for both children and adults by building bridges of understanding between generations that instill in its audience an appreciation of the performing arts. Through artistic collaboration the Griffin Theatre Company produces literary adaptations, original work and classic plays that challenge and inspire, with wit, style and compassion for the audience.

Celebrating its 32nd Anniversary this year, the Griffin has provided a wide range of work including world and mid-west premieres of acclaimed scripts, critically lauded productions of Shakespeare and original adaptations of novels. The Griffin Theatre Company is the recipient of 115 Joseph Jefferson Award nominations for theater excellence in Chicago. In 2018, the Griffin’s production of the musical Ragtime received the Jeff Award for “Best Production of a Musical and Best Ensemble.” In addition, the Griffin was the repeat winner of the 2016 Jeff Award for “Best Production of a Play” for London Wall having won the same award in 2015 for its production of Men Should Weep. In 2014, the Griffin was honored with a Special Jeff Award for artistic excellence and its dedication to provocative and transformational theatre for Chicago audiences as well as its touring theater that engages and enlightens youth throughout the United States.

The Griffin is a nationally recognized producer of youth touring theatre in the United States. The Griffin’s national audience exceeds 100,000 young people and adults each year. Tours have included such prestigious venues as Cleveland Playhouse Square, Tennessee Center for the Performing Arts in Nashville, and the Cerritos Center for the Arts in Cerritos, California. Touring productions include both youth focused plays, Frindle and The Stinky Cheese Man and the Griffin’s hit adult production of Letters Home—a production that pays tribute to the men and women in the US military, In to America, a play that traces America’s 400 year immigrant history and Ghosts of War. Most recently, the Griffin produced the world premiere production of the Emmy Award-winning children’s television show, Innovation Nation. Overall, Griffin’s touring productions have been performed in 44 of our United States.
Overview

The Henry Ford Model I is a unique learning framework for developing an innovative mindset. Model I is comprised of two frames: Actions of Innovation and Habits of an Innovator. Together, they form a language that describes any person’s unique innovation journey and guides students to think and act like innovators.

This guide outlines a set of activities that integrates Model I with stories and artifacts from The Henry Ford Archive of American Innovation, as well as students’ own experiences. The activities complement one another, but you can extract individual activities or customize them to meet your needs.

Preparation Notes

The activities in this guide use a variety of online materials from The Henry Ford (photographs, videos, articles), so you will need computer equipment and an internet connection to display these materials in a classroom. If students are using their own devices, they will need to be able to connect to the internet to view the online materials.

Activities 2 and 3 require some supplies, which you may need to prepare ahead of time.

About the Henry Ford

The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan, is an internationally recognized cultural destination that brings the past forward by immersing visitors in the stories of ingenuity, resourcefulness and innovation that helped shape America.

A National Historic Landmark with an unparalleled collection of artifacts from 300 years of American history, The Henry Ford is a force for sparking curiosity and inspiring tomorrow’s innovators. Learn more at thf.org

Innovation Powered by Perspective to unleash everyone’s potential to innovate, The Henry Ford has developed Model I, a unique learning framework based on artifacts and stories in The Henry Ford Archive of American Innovation. This remarkable collection provides unprecedented insight into the ways people innovate across 300 years of American history. For over 90 years, our curators and historians have studied its content, curating stories of American ingenuity, resourcefulness and innovation that continue to evolve with today’s breakthroughs. It is this experience combined with our decade-long focus on innovation education that provides the expertise behind Model I. The Model I framework consists of two frames: Actions of Innovation and Habits of an Innovator. Together, we use them as a language to describe Innovation Journeys within our collection — and activate learners through their own innovation journeys.
Getting Started

Introduce the concept of innovation by asking students to look around the classroom or whatever environment they are in. Ask if they spot anything that could use improvement (for example, the furniture, the equipment, the lighting or the layout of the room). If needed, expand beyond their immediate environment to look for examples from their school or neighborhood. Use the examples to explain that there are opportunities for positive change everywhere and creating positive change is the purpose of innovation.

Use a story from The Henry Ford to further illustrate what innovation means. Use one of the two options below, or curate your own by searching The Henry Ford’s website. Whichever story you choose, use it to guide students toward these key points:
- To innovate is to make a significant contribution or improvement to an existing product, process or service.
- The resulting innovation addresses a need and solves a problem.
- An innovator helps to shape a better future.

**Story Option 1: Thomas Edison and the Incandescent Light Bulb**

Thomas Edison was not the first to invent an electric light bulb. Other inventors developed electric light bulbs before Edison, but their lamps were experimental and impractical for everyday use. Edison and his team experimented repeatedly with different materials and in 1879 developed the first marketable bulb that was safe, affordable and dependable. The Henry Ford has several online resources you can use to tell this story, including the following:
- Video segment from *The Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation: Menlo Park* (03:48 minutes)
- Profile and interview about Edison: *Visionaries on Innovation: Thomas Edison*
- Article: *What If Thomas Edison Hadn’t Turned Failure into Success?*

**Story Option 2: Jessica O. Matthews and the Soccket**

Jessica O. Matthews had a unique idea: turn a soccer ball into a battery that powers lights for people in the developing world. Her story shows how an ordinary object can be transformed to address a need and improve people’s quality of life. Show students the following segment from *The Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation: Soccer Ball That Generates Energy* (03:50 minutes).
The pre-activity helps students understand Model I as a language to talk about innovation through artifacts and stories of innovators. Show the Model I framework, which is available online at thf.org/modeli. Explain the Actions of Innovation and Habits of an Innovator using the descriptions and graphics. The best way to understand the Actions and Habits is to experience them, so try not to dwell on specific definitions at this stage. Instead, help students understand the big picture and purpose of Model I.

**Actions of Innovation** are guideposts that help innovators move forward as they develop an idea or solve a problem. The process usually starts with Uncover, but Actions can take place in any order.

**Habits of an Innovator** describe ways of seeing, thinking and doing. Habits connect to Actions. Together, they increase the innovator’s chances of success.
To help put the Actions of Innovation and Habits of an Innovator into context, get students to identify Actions and Habits from an innovator story. For example, if you used Thomas Edison’s or Jessica O. Matthews’ story, you can circle back to it and help students connect the innovator to the Actions and Habits as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THOMAS EDISON</th>
<th>JESSICA O. MATTHEWS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collaborate:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Challenge the Rules and Take Risks:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A team of people worked with Edison at the Menlo Park laboratory. Edison knew the importance of working with people who brought different skills to the table.</td>
<td>Most people would not look at a soccer ball and see it in a completely different light, the way Matthews did. The Soccket challenges what a soccer ball is and what it can do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learn From Failure and Stay Curious:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Be Empathetic:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edison and his team experimented repeatedly with different materials before they developed a practical light bulb. This means they went through numerous failures before they found the right combination.</td>
<td>Matthews empathized with children who need a source of light at night, and she addressed that need with something that fit naturally into their lifestyle: soccer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Optimize and Implement:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Uncover and Define:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edison and his team constantly made improvements to their designs to ensure his electrical distribution system could become a commercial success. In 1882, he demonstrated the system’s functionality when the Pearl Street generating station began to supply reliable electricity to streets and buildings in a small area of New York City.</td>
<td>In her travels to Africa, Matthews noticed that children, despite poor living conditions, were happy and carefree when playing soccer. She also observed that people had a serious lack of access to sustainable power, which prevented children from studying at night because it became too dark.</td>
</tr>
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Activity 2: Digital Scavenger Hunt

Driving Question: What are the Habits of an Innovator?

Learning Objective: Recognize Habits of an Innovator in artifacts and stories of innovation.

Building on the pre-activity, the Digital Scavenger Hunt asks students to investigate an innovator story on their own and to identify as many habits as they can, highlighting ones that they have identified that are specific to the Habits of an Innovator.

Students may discover other habits in addition to the Model I. Give students options to choose from as a starting point—for example, Buckminster Fuller or Amelia Earhart (more options are listed below). Provide guidance on how to search The Henry Ford’s website for digital artifacts, articles and videos. In addition, students can search The Henry Ford’s YouTube channel for relevant segments of Innovation Nation.

Grade-Level Suggestions:
- Elementary School: Focus students with the six preset options.
- Middle and High School: Encourage students to find their own innovators using the sources listed in the Where to Look section.

Preset Options for the Scavenger Hunt:
The following are recommended innovators and artifacts. The items listed in the last column, Items to Gather, are some of the resources that students should find in their scavenger hunt if they use the research avenues listed under Where to Look. The stories in these resources reveal different ways in which the innovators exemplify Habits of an Innovator.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Innovation</th>
<th>Innovator</th>
<th>Artifact</th>
<th>Items to Gather</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Design & Making    | Buckminster Fuller | Dymaxion House | ▪  What If We Reimagine How We Construct Houses—and Humanity?  
▪  Innovation Nation: Dymaxion House  |
| Social Transformation | Rosa Parks | Rosa Parks Bus | ▪  What If I Don’t Move to the Back of the Bus?  
▪  Innovation Nation: The Rosa Parks Bus  |
▪  What If an Artist Becomes a Scientist?  |
| Information & Communication Technology | Steve Wozniak | Apple 1 Computer, 1976 | ▪  What if Everyone Could Have a Personal Computer?  
▪  Visionaries on Innovation: Steve Wozniak  
▪  Innovation Nation: Steve Wozniak’s Apple 1  |
| Mobility | Amelia Earhart | Amelia Earhart Speaking at the Elks Air Circus, July 11, 1929s | ▪  Amelia Earhart: The Iconic Aviatrix  
▪  Amelia Earhart: Across the Atlantic and into the Headlines  
▪  Innovation Nation: Female Aviators  |
| Power & Energy | George Corliss | Corliss Steam Engine, 1859 | ▪  What if the World Ran on Steam?  |
Activity 2: Digital Scavenger Hunt / page 2

Where to Look:
Here are some of the different places where students can find resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>thf.org</td>
<td>A good starting point for the scavenger hunt is The Henry Ford website’s general Site Search feature, identified by a magnifying glass in the top-right corner of the website. Students should look at both “Website Pages” and “Artifacts” in the search results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Collections from The Henry Ford Archive of American Innovation</td>
<td>Use the Digital Collections area to look specifically for artifacts and “Expert Sets”—groups of related artifacts that are compiled by The Henry Ford’s staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stories of Innovation</td>
<td>In the “Explore” area of The Henry Ford website, students can find a series of “What If?” articles that chronicle how innovators such as Thomas Edison and Rosa Parks challenged the status quo. Students will also find video interviews with and about innovators in a series called Visionaries on Innovation. These articles and videos provide insight into how innovators practice the Habits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Henry Ford YouTube channel</td>
<td>The Henry Ford catalogs all episodes of Innovation Nation on its website, but the easiest way to find segments that are relevant to a specific innovator is to search The Henry Ford’s YouTube channel. Students should use the “Search Channel” feature on the homepage of the channel.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Buckminster Fuller’s Dymaxion House
Apple 1 Computer, 1976
Rosa Parks portrayal in Innovation Nation LIVE!
George Washington Carver and his microscope
**Activity 3: Paper Aircrafts**

**Driving Question:** What are the Actions of Innovation, and how do they link up to Habits of an Innovator to form an innovation journey?

**Learning Objective:** Practice the Actions and Habits through an innovation journey. This activity gives students an opportunity to experience Actions of Innovation as they build paper aircraft. Start by doing a quick review of the Actions diagram, then have students design, build, test and improve a paper aircraft using the following supplies and process.

**Grade-Level Suggestions:**
- **Elementary School:** Focus on the aircraft’s flight distance.
- **Middle and High School:** Focus on the aircraft’s flight distance plus the number of passengers it can transport.

**Supplies:**
- Two types of paper (for example, printer, notebook or construction) for aircraft
- Two sizes of paper clips (large and small) representing passengers
- Space for testing aircraft

**Process**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action of Innovation</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Guiding Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Uncover**          | Identify qualities of good paper aircraft. | ▪ What makes a good paper aircraft?  
▪ How do you know if you have made a good paper aircraft? |
| **Define**           | Select a criterion by which to judge a paper aircraft.  
Pick materials that would work best according to the criterion. | ▪ What do you want your paper aircraft design to focus on? For example, will you build an aircraft that holds as many passengers as possible, or flies a long distance?  
▪ Which type of paper will you use? Which size paper clips? |
| **Design**           | Make and test the aircraft. | ▪ What does a paper aircraft usually look like? Can it look different? Are there different ways of making them?  
▪ How will you test the aircraft to determine if it works well? |
| **Optimize**         | Make observations and make improvements (or make a new version). | ▪ What worked? What didn’t?  
▪ How can you improve your design? |
| **Implement**        | Test the improved aircraft. Look at other people’s aircraft designs and learn from each other; give each other feedback. | ▪ Did performance improve? Why or why not?  
▪ What did you learn from other people’s designs or feedback?  
▪ What might you do differently next time? |

**Follow-Up Discussion**

Follow the paper aircraft activity with a discussion to integrate students’ knowledge about Actions and Habits.

- Ask students if they practiced any of the Habits while they were doing the paper aircraft activity.
- Show how Habits connect to Actions, using the example provided below. (The example is a visual aid only; it is not based on any actual innovation.) Note that any Action can connect to any Habit, and everyone takes a unique innovation journey. The dotted lines represent variable paths and directions that an innovator might take.

- Help students understand that Model I is a guide to innovation, but there is no single “correct” path to take. For example, when building a paper aircraft, there might be a need to repeat Optimize multiple times, or even return to Uncover, Define or Design to gain more clarity.

- If you have time, have students map out their own paper aircraft innovation journey with pencil and paper, integrating both Actions and Habits.
Collaborate
Orville, Wilbur and their sister Katharine lived, played and worked together.

Stay Curious
Their father bought them a rubber-band-powered flying toy, which stimulated their first interest in flying machines.

Define / Challenge the Rules / Take Risks
The Wrights recognized that successful flight required three things: wings for lift, an engine for propulsion and – the key problem – a way to control flight.

Stay Curious
Observing birds in flight led to their breakthrough moment when Wilbur twisted a bicycle inner-tube box and discovered "wing warping," the key concept to controlling flight.

Design / Take Risks
In 1896, the world leader in glider flight died when his glider plunged to the ground. This reawakened the Wrights' interest in aviation, so they searched local libraries for anything related to aeronautics and even penned a letter to the Smithsonian requesting information about "mechanical and human flight."

Design / Take Risks
In 1900, they tested their glider at Kitty Hawk, but the wings failed to produce enough lift.

Chart out the rest of the Wright brothers' journey at thehenryford.org/explore/storiesof-innovation/what-if/wright-brothers/
Activity 4: Innovation Journey

Driving Question: Can we identify the Actions and Habits used to solve problems?

Learning Objective: Identify Actions and Habits within an innovation journey, and explain how they lead to a solution for a problem. The Wright brothers’ innovation journey is the foundation for this activity. Students will see that the Wright brothers’ journey to solving the problem of human flight started in their youth and required a great deal of learning and persistence. The hands-on component gets students to analyze an innovation experience of their choosing and illustrate it as a journey.

(Note: The following story on the Wright brothers produced by The Henry Ford was used to develop the innovation journey. Refer to it if you would like more context: “What If Bicycles Held the Secret to Human Flight?”)

Supplies:
- Sheets of paper
- Markers in different colors
- Optional: Computer/tablet access for creating journeys with digital apps

Process:
Go over the Wright brothers’ innovation journey. Reiterate that innovation journeys can go in many directions and can take place over different time frames. A journey can apply to a specific project, such as the paper aircraft activity, or a lifetime of discovery and practice. Furthermore, Habits and Actions can be linked, but they can also stand alone.

Then, have students map out an innovation journey of their choosing, either with markers and paper or by using digital presentation apps like Microsoft PowerPoint or Keynote. You can give them one or both of the following options:
- Create an innovation journey based on a time they solved or overcame a problem.
- Represent the innovation journey of someone they know who solved or overcame a problem. This person does not have to be famous but can be.

Once the journeys are done, get students to do the following:
- Present what they created.
- Explain how the Actions and Habits in their journey led to a solution.
- Share ideas on how they can continue to use the Actions and practice the Habits.

Despite any formal training in physics or engineering, Wilbur and Orville Wright brought an utterly original and successful approach to the problem of human flight.
Sources and Resources

The Henry Ford
www.thehenryford.org

Innovation Nation Episodes / The Henry Ford
www.thehenryford.org/explore/innovation-nation/episodes/

Henry Ford YouTube Channel
www.youtube.com/user/TheHenryFord

Digital Collections from The Henry Ford
www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/

The Henry Ford Model I
www.thehenryford.org/education/teaching-innovation/modeli/

ArtsBridge
www.ArtsBridgeGA.org

Curriculum Connections

Science
Dramatic Arts/Theatre
Technology
Engineering
Math
Social Justice
Environment

Additional Curriculum Connections information:
https://artsbridgega.org/field-trip/innovation-nation-live/