

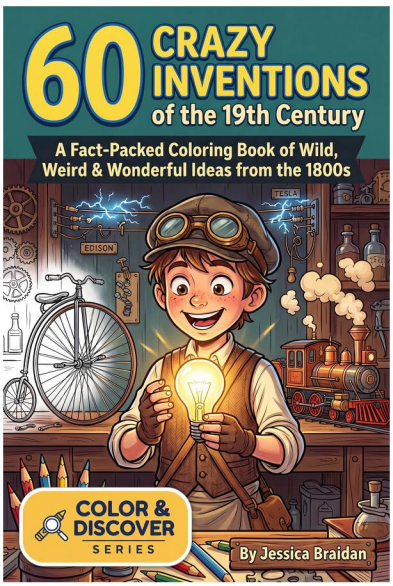
Did you know?

# The Stethoscope Surprise

What Was It All About?: Before 1816, doctors pressed their ear directly against a patient's chest to listen to their heartbeat, which was awkward for everyone involved. French doctor René Laennec rolled up some paper into a tube and discovered he could hear the heart much more clearly through it. He soon built a wooden version, and the stethoscope was born. Today, nearly every doctor in the world still uses one, making it one of the most important medical tools ever invented.

Inventor's Notebook: Laennec got the idea by watching children tap messages to each other through a long wooden beam. Sound travels surprisingly well through solid objects!

Try This!: Press your ear gently against a wooden table and tap the other end. Can you hear how much louder the sound is compared to tapping in the open air?




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