

# Invention in a Jail Cell

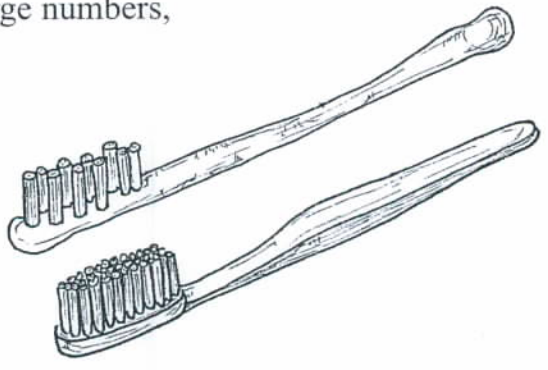
## Review Key Words

**mass-produce** Mass-produce means to make in large numbers, often with the help of machines.

**bristles** Bristles are short, stiff hairs.

**essential** Essential means extremely important or necessary.

**common** If something is common, it is normal or happens a lot.



Write \_\_\_\_\_  
tion \_\_\_\_\_

## Read the Story<sup>2-4</sup>

4 An Englishman named William  
13 Addis sat in jail with a bone and some  
20 **bristles**. Was he trying to make some  
28 kind of escape tool? No, he was trying  
32 to make a toothbrush.

32 William went to jail in 1770. Back  
39 then, toothbrushes were not **common**.  
44 In Europe, most people cleaned their  
50 teeth with rags. William wanted a better  
57 way to clean his teeth. One night, he  
65 saved a bone from his dinner. He also  
73 got some bristles from a guard. Then he  
81 figured out how to attach the bristles to  
89 the bone. Soon he had a toothbrush!

96 William was not the first person with  
103 this idea. In **ancient** times, people used

110 sticks with **frayed** ends to clean their  
117 teeth. Much later, the **Chinese** made  
123 teeth-cleaning tools by attaching pig  
129 hairs to **bamboo** sticks. But William  
135 was the first person to **mass-produce**  
142 toothbrushes. When he got out of jail,  
149 he **founded** a company and started  
155 selling them.

157 Before long, toothbrushes were  
161 common around the world. Today,  
166 many companies sell them. They come  
172 in many colors and **varieties**. The  
178 toothbrush is now an **essential** tool for  
185 people all over the world. Can you  
192 imagine your life without one?  
197

|                              | day 1 | day 2 | day 3 | day 4 |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| words read in 1 minute       |       |       |       |       |
| - number of mistakes         |       |       |       |       |
| = total words read correctly |       |       |       |       |
| adult initials               |       |       |       |       |

# Invention in a Jail Cell

## Answer the Questions

1. What is the main idea of this story?
  - a. William Addis made a toothbrush from a bone and bristles.
  - b. William Addis helped make toothbrushes common.
  - c. William Addis founded a company when he got out of jail.
2. How did most people in Europe clean their teeth before the toothbrush?
  - a. with bamboo
  - b. with rags
  - c. with bristles
3. What does the word **founded** mean in this story?
  - a. stole from or robbed
  - b. looked at or noticed
  - c. set up or started
4. Why did William Addis mass-produce toothbrushes?
  - a. He wanted to sell them for money.
  - b. He wanted everybody in jail to have one.
  - c. He wanted them to come in many colors and varieties.
5. How are today's toothbrushes different from the ones in ancient times?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Match each word with its definition.

|              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. bamboo    | a. ___ very old          |
| 2. frayed    | b. ___ tall hard grass   |
| 3. varieties | c. ___ worn at the edges |
| 4. ancient   | d. ___ different kinds   |

## Parent Tips

Developing fluency is important at any reading level; readers at any level may benefit substantially from fluency instruction. Readers grow to understand that there are markers in text that help bridge some of the differences between written and spoken language. Ask readers to read aloud as if they were giving a talk or were in a play: reading to an audience highlights the communication conventions of spoken language.

--National Institute for Literacy

Number of Words Written: \_\_\_\_\_