

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Main Idea Worksheet

## Engineer Elijah McCoy

As a teenager, Elijah McCoy went to Scotland to study. He became a mechanical engineer. When the family moved to Michigan, he could not find work as a mechanical engineer, so he worked for the railroad. During this time, he designed a device for oiling engines on trains and ships. In 1872, he received a patent for his device. It was very important for the transportation industry, as engines had to be oiled to stay running.

Elijah McCoy continued to develop new inventions throughout his life. Most of his inventions involved the oiling of machines. However, some were quite different. He also invented a lawn sprinkler and a folding ironing board. By the time he died in 1929 in Michigan, he had received 57 patents on his inventions.

Write the main idea of the passage in your own words.

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Write two supporting details for the main idea.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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