**Ancient Greek inventions**

Some of the most well-known objects of our daily lives originated in [ancient Greece](https://greece.greekreporter.com/?s=+ancient+Greece). Aside from such concepts as philosophy and democracy, ancient Greeks contributed many inventions we still use today.

**The lighthouse**

While today’s lighthouses have gone the way of the clocktower, lighthouses traditionally offered guidance from the land. They served as beacons from which to position ships for entry to port or to warn them of dangerous shoreline in otherwise foggy places. In the 3rd century BC, the Greeks build the Lighthouse of Alexandria. It took twelve years to complete, but would be the template from which all future lighthouses were built. For centuries it was the tallest human-made structure. People abandoned it after several earthquakes reduced it to ruins.

**Automatic doors**

 Nothing says home like a front door and a garage. The next time you open your garage door, you can say, “Thank the Greeks this thing works.” Of course, the Ancient Greek design didn’t use radio signals and chains. Leveraging steam power, in the 1st century AD, Heron of Alexandria created plans for automatic doors. He was a Greek scholar, but this was Roman-ruled Egypt. It’s confusing, sure, but the Greeks get the credit for this one.

**Plumbing and central heating**

Between 1.700-1.450 BC, the Minoan civilization was at its peak and Knossos in Crete was the most important city-state. At Knossos, the Minoans took advantage of the steep grade of the land to devise a drainage system with lavatories, sinks and manholes.

At Knossos we find the earliest known flushing toilet. What is more, the palace and the ordinary homes were heated with sophisticated hypocaust systems, where heat was conducted under the floor, the earlier known to exist.

**Water mills**

Water mills still power homes and cities throughout the world. Of course, today’s mills are more often realized as dams, but they employ the same concept. The goal is to harness water power to propel something else. Greeks designed the first versions, written in a book called Pneumatics.

**Alarm Clock**

The first alarm clock was created in ancient Greece, by Ctesibus, a Hellenistic engineer and inventor. He developed an elaborate system of dropping pebbles on to a gong in order to make a sound. This sound was set to happen at specific time intervals.

**Odometer**

There is a dispute around the Greek inventor of the odometer as some say it was the Hero of Alexandria while others claim that it was Archimedes. The invention of the odometer helped the ancient Greek civilization by boosting its economy.

**Thermometer**

 The original concept of the current thermometer dates back almost 2,000 years. The[Greeks of Alexandria](https://world.greekreporter.com/?s=+Greeks+of+Alexandria) were the first who figured out how air expands when exposed to high temperatures. Philo of Byzantium was the first to apply this technique.

**Map**

 The Greek scientist Anaximander was the first who conceptualized the ideas of longitude and latitude. Later, Strabo and Eratosthenes created maps spanning the world.

**Lever**

 The lever was first described by the Greek mathematician Archimedes in 260 BC. The use of the lever contributed to the impressive constructions of the ancient era.

**Coins**

We don’t know for certain when or where in Greek culture the first coins appeared, but it was somewhere around 615 BC in Athens. The first coins were hand-made, but don’t look so different from what we use today. We still see many of the same elements; heads of politicians, grains, and animals.

**Clock towers**

The first was built around 50 BC. It was the Tower of the Winds, built in Athens. It featured eight sundials. Today’s clock towers have more modern applications of technology, but despite the landslide of personal time devices, we still build clock towers.