

Includes
Author
Interview!

Name _____

Date _____

Atlas Obscura: Explorer's Guide to Inventing the World

Written by Dylan Thuras and Jennifer Swanson

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creators. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

This is a globe-spanning history of invention like no other. This illustrated and STEM-oriented exploration of the planet's 50 most interesting inventions and scientific discoveries sends middle-grade readers on an unforgettable trip around the planet and across time.

Each spread focuses on a world-changing technology and how it led to or influenced the tech or discovery on the next page. Starting with the very first invention, fire, readers will spelunk the Wonderwerk Cave in South Africa for evidence of humankind's earliest control of flames, then learn how fire is necessary to create another essential tech: glass, including the modern-day glass bridge in Zhangjiajie, China, that offers a crystal-clear (and terrifying!) view of the chasm 1,300 feet below.

As you gaze at comets through telescopes, create unbreakable codes, zap space garbage with lasers, and break supersonic records in the world's fastest car, gorgeously illustrated scenes will transport readers across continents and centuries into a world of wonder and discovery.

Who Wrote It?

Dylan Thuras

Dylan is the Co-Founder of Atlas Obscura and, the co-author of the Atlas Obscura books, as well as the host of the AO Youtube series 100 Wonders. He and his co-founder Josh, started Atlas Obscura because they felt that the world was still this huge, bizarre, vast place filled with astounding stuff. With Atlas they hoped to share their sense of wonder at this truly strange world we all live in. Dylan is also the father of the two cutest, most charming children in the world. He says they make his world more magical and that he does a lot of embarrassing dad stuff these days. He has traveled to 32 countries!!!



Jennifer Swanson

Jennifer began her writing career at the age of five when she wrote and illustrated books for her kindergarten class. A self-professed science geek, Jennifer has always been captivated by the world around her and is curious to understand how it works. Jennifer is the award winning author of over 45+ nonfiction books for children, mostly about science and technology. She was also a science teacher for 15 years and now lives in Florida.



AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: 910L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.



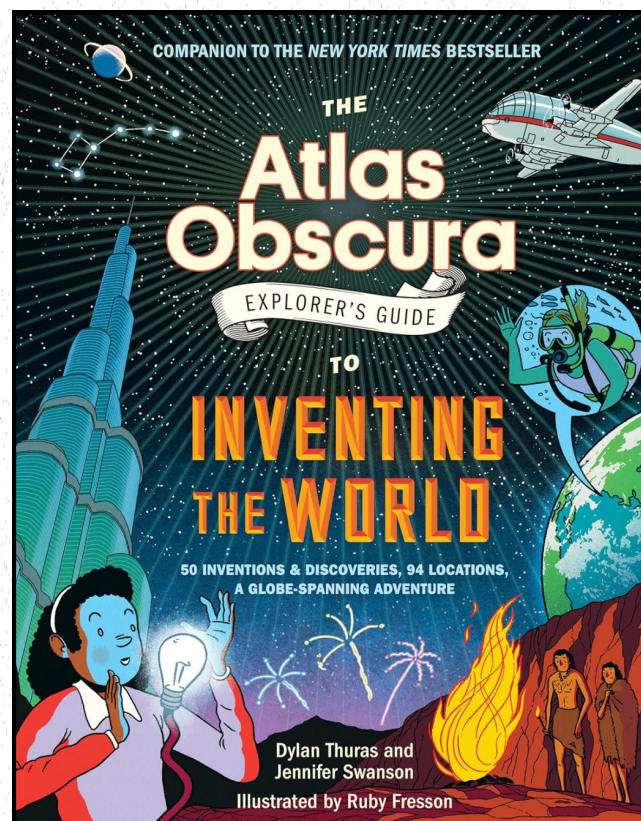
Read Aloud Video

Atlas Obscura: Explorer's Guide to Inventing the World
Written by Dylan Thuras and Jennifer Swanson

Record Interesting Facts Here:

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary school writing paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Record Your Questions Here:

[illegible]

This book is a globe-spanning history of invention like no other. This illustrated and STEM-oriented exploration of the planet's 50 most interesting inventions and scientific discoveries sends middle-grade readers on an unforgettable trip around the planet and across time. Each spread focuses on a world-changing technology and how it led to or influenced the tech or discovery on the next page. Starting with the very first invention, fire, readers will spelunk the Wonderwerk Cave in South Africa for evidence of humankind's earliest control of flames, then learn how fire is necessary to create another essential tech: glass, including the modern-day glass bridge in Zhangjiajie, China, that offers a crystal-clear (and terrifying!) view of the chasm 1,300 feet below. As you gaze at comets through telescopes, create unbreakable codes, zap space garbage with lasers, and break supersonic records in the world's fastest car, gorgeously illustrated scenes will transport readers across continents and centuries into a world of wonder and discovery.

✦ In your opinion, which of the inventions covered in the video has had the greatest impact on humans or the planet?

✦ In your opinion, which of the places covered in the video sounds the most appealing to visit? Why would you want to go there?