

Has Anyone Invented this Already?

Patent Search worksheet

Name: _____

Before you get too far along with your idea, you should be sure that no one has thought of something like it before. You can search for similar ideas either at the U.S. Patent Office's website or through Google. But first you need to come up with words that describe your idea.

Words to Use on your Search

What is your invention about? What words would you use to describe your idea? Using the answers to these two questions, generate 5 keywords that relate to your inventive idea.

Put in Lab Notebook.

Google Search Tool

An easy search tool is Google. Go to <http://www.google.com/patents> and type in your keywords into the search field. Try different combinations of keywords, two at a time. What patents do you find? Do any of them resemble your idea? List the names of similar inventions you have found in your lab notebook.

Describe how your invention will be different.