

How the Super Soaker was invented

Do you like playing with water guns?

Vocabulary

1. released 2. realised 3. invented 4. unexpected 5. stream 6. improving

True Story

Most people know the Super Soaker, but few know how it was _____. In the 1980s, NASA engineer Lonnie Johnson was testing a new heat pump when water suddenly shot across his bathroom. Instead of seeing a problem, he saw a great idea. Johnson _____ the powerful _____ of water could become an exciting toy.

He spent several years _____ his invention before a toy company agreed to sell it. When the Super Soaker was _____ in 1990, it quickly became one of the world's most popular water guns. An _____ accident had changed toy history forever.

Quiz

1. What was Lonnie Johnson's job in the 1980s?
2. Where did the water shoot across when Johnson was working?
3. What did Johnson think the powerful stream of water could become?
4. When was the Super Soaker released?

True or False

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Lonnie Johnson invented the Super Soaker in the 1990s. | True False |
| 2. He spent seven years improving his invention. | True False |
| 3. Johnson's accident changed toy history forever. | True False |

Conversation

- A: Lonnie, what happened in your bathroom?
 B: Water shot everywhere! But I have an idea.
 A: Really? What kind of idea?
 B: A new water gun. Check this out! **squirt!**
 A: Hey, cut it out! I'm super soaked!
 B: "Super soaked"... Hmm... That could be a great name! **squirt!**

Discussion

1. Are water guns popular in your country?
2. What was your favourite toy as a child?
3. How often do you go to the seaside? Where did you go last time?
4. What water sports would you like to try?