

HENRY FORD --- AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL

Henry Ford was born in Michigan in 1863. He attended a country school until he was fifteen. Henry really loved machines so he got a job making machinery. He repaired watches in his spare time and he also built a sawmill for his father.

Henry then took the position of chief engineer for the Edison Electric Co. He left this job in 1899 to begin his own racing-car company. It was here that Henry thought of his most famous idea. He wanted to make the price of cars cheaper so he invented the "assembly line".

On an assembly line, each person on the line has only one job and the work moves down the line until the product (car) is finished. Henry also had car parts made at special factories. The parts were then put together into cars at his assembly plants all over the USA. Henry was the founder of Detroit's identity as "Motor City USA" or "Motown", because many car factories were located there.

Henry was a tough boss but he paid high wages. He controlled Ford Motor Co. for forty years until just before his death in 1947.

Comprehension Questions

- 1) What was Henry's Job with Edison Electric?
- 2) What did Henry repair in his spare time as a teenager?
- 3) What is considered Henry Ford's most famous idea?
- 4) How long did Henry control Ford Motor Co.?
- 5) What did Henry build for his father?
- 6) What is Detroit's nickname?
- 7) When was Henry born? Where?
- 8) What did Henry make in special factories?
- 9) Was Henry a friendly boss?
- 10) What kind of school did Henry attend?
- 11) When did Henry die?
- 12) What university did Henry go to?