

Name _____ Date _____

What do you know about the zipper?

When you put on your pants in the morning, or even bundle up in a warm jacket, do you use a zipper? Did you know that if you had lived 200 years ago this would not have been possible? The zipper has not always existed. Before the zipper became popular people had to use buttons, string, elastic, or snaps to keep clothing closed.

When the first zippers were created by the founder of the sewing machine, he called them Automatic Continuous Clothing Closures, and they were individually put into place and gathered. This did not work. Forty years later another man tried and failed to create a functional zipper. Once again in 1913 a man named Sundback created a model with interlocking oval scoops and a slider used to join these together. These were used in boots for the soldiers of WWI, making the zipper popular. Today, we use zippers in shoes, coats, tops, and pants of all types. Such a simple invention can make a big difference.

1. Underline the year in which a functional zipper was finally invented.
2. Who created the first usable zippers? _____
3. What were four things that were used to keep clothes together before zippers?

4. What else did the first zipper maker create?

5. What were the first zippers called?

6. Underline the sentence in the passage that explains what zippers are used in today.
7. Circle the sentence that explains how zippers are made today.

