

Name _____ Date _____

What do you know about the lawn mower?



Have you ever helped your parents mow the lawn? Maybe you easily recognize the roar of the lawn mower as the key is turned or as the string is pulled to start the motor? Did you know that the first lawn mowers did not have motors at all? In fact the first lawns that were 'mowed' were actually kept short by grazing animals or someone with shears that actually cut each blade of grass like hair.

In 1830, an Englishman named Edwin Bear Budding created a mechanical lawn mower. He based his design on a tool that was used to uniformly cut carpet prior to being installed. This machine was made of a series of blades around a cylinder. Almost 40 years later, a version of this that was designed to be pulled by horses, made it to the United States.

Not long after arriving in the U.S., Elwood McGuire made the first popular human power push mower. This was smaller with blades on a cylinder, but was manually pushed around the yard to cut the grass. It was not until the 1900s that the first lawn mower with an internal combustion gas engine, like mowers today, was invented. These mowers were heavy, but got the job finished quickly. In 1953 a mower with an aluminum engine made the tool light weight and easier for all to use. Today lawn mowers are a staple of the American household.

1. Underline the name of the person in the U.S. that made the human power push mower.
2. What was the first lawn mower based on? _____
3. What change made the lawn mower light weight? _____
4. Underline how the first lawns were 'mowed'.
5. How long did it take a version of the lawn mower to get to the U.S.? _____
6. Circle the section in the passage that explains how the first mower looked.
7. Underline two ways in which current day lawn mowers start.