Model i

Accelerating an innovative mindset

Stay curious at thehenryford.org/modeli.
To unleash everyone's potential to innovate, The Henry Ford has developed Model I, a unique learning framework based on artifacts and stories in The Henry Ford Archive of American Innovation. This remarkable collection provides unprecedented insight into the ways people innovate across 300 years of American history.

For over 90 years, our curators and historians have studied its content, curating stories of American ingenuity, resourcefulness and innovation that continue to evolve with today's breakthroughs. It is this experience combined with our decade-long focus on innovation education that provides the expertise behind Model I.

The Model I framework consists of two frames: Actions of Innovation and Habits of an Innovator. Together, we use them as a language to describe Innovation Journeys within our collection — and activate learners through their own innovation journeys.
A SET OF GUIDEPOSTS
Look to them to help point the way forward.

Innovation is messy and there’s no one formula, but when we set out to pursue a new idea or solve a new problem, we can learn and act in ways that increase our chances of success. For would-be innovators, this set of guideposts helps to point the way forward.
A FRAME OF MIND
The best way to learn them is to live them.

Developing our mindset — the way we see, think and interact with something — turns out to be especially useful for staying motivated and inspired to explore new ideas and overcome challenges.
In 1896, the world leader in glider flight died when his glider plunged into the ground. This reawakened the Wrights' interest in aviation so they searched local libraries for anything related to aeronautics and even penned a letter to the Smithsonian requesting information about "mechanical and human flight."

The Wrights recognized that successful flight required three things: wings for lift, an engine for propulsion and – the key problem – a way to control flight. Observing birds in flight led to their breakthrough moment when Wilbur twisted a bicycle inner-tube box and discovered "wing warping," the key concept to controlling flight.

In 1900, they tested their glider at Kitty Hawk, but the wings failed to produce enough lift.

Stay Curious
Their father bought them a rubber-band-powered flying toy, which stimulated their first interest in flying machines.

AN INNOVATION JOURNEY
On paper, innovation is a step-by-step process. In reality, it rarely happens that way. However the journey unfolds, we make the best progress when our habits and actions work together.

Explore the innovation journey of the Wright Brothers' first flight to spark your own path.
HOW CAN YOU HELP STUDENTS THINK LIKE AN INNOVATOR?

We support educators and satisfy a critical need by sharing a universal language for the teaching and learning of innovation that can be applied at every stage of the talent pipeline. Get started at thehenryford.org/modeli.

Activate Model I

Stay curious and explore our professional development workshops and apply for our Teacher Innovator Awards, which provide innovation immersions for 10 winners each year.

Send learners on their own innovation journeys using our new Innovate curriculum. The series of online courses and resources introduces the Model I framework using stories of innovators past and present. Available in Fall 2018

Tune in to The Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation TV show to identify habits and action of past and present-day innovators. Watch Saturday mornings on CBS or at thehenryford.org/innovationnation

Get your students involved in your local Invention Convention, setting goals to be selected as a finalist at the National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Exposition.

Experience the real deal stories of innovation with a field trip to The Henry Ford or the new Innovation Nation Live! touring show that opens in theatres throughout the U.S. in fall 2018.
OUR MISSION

The Henry Ford provides unique educational experiences based on authentic objects, stories and lives from America’s traditions of ingenuity, resourcefulness and innovation. Our purpose is to inspire people to learn from these traditions to help shape a better future.