



The Wheel

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Mesopotamia

The Mesopotamians are credited with the invention of the first wheel.



5,500!

The Mesopotamians invented the
wheel 5,500 years ago.



Background

- ☠ The wheel was invented in the bronze age of civilization and at that time humans were already planting crops, herding domesticated animals, and had some form of social hierarchy
- ☠ The Mesopotamian wheel was initially a potter's wheel and was not used for transportation
- ☠ It was used as a rotating disk to then put clay on and shape vases and bowls.



The Engineering Process



The first wheel was made from clay, rock and mud which slowly developed to the making of wheels by joining together of wooden planks.



Then with the passage of time they began to place runners under a heavy load, which they discovered would make it easier for the load to drag. This was the beginning of the invention of the wheel which was the invention of the sledge.



The rollers were changed into wheels. In the process of doing so, wood between the grooves of the roller were cut away to form an axle and wooden pegs were fastened to the runners on each side of the axle. When the wheels turn, the axle turned too in the space between the pegs. The first wooden cart was thus made



Improvements upon the wheel continued to be made. Wheels started being used as gears during the middle Ages. This allowed for the invention of mechanical devices such as clocks, water wheels, cogwheels, and astrolabes for sailors to navigate.



Impact



The wheel is probably the most important mechanical invention of all time. Nearly every machine built since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution involves a single, basic principle embodied in one of mankind's truly significant inventions. It's hard to imagine any mechanized system that would be possible without the wheel or the idea of a symmetrical component moving in a circular motion on an axis. From tiny watch gears to automobiles, jet engines and computer disk drives, the principle is the same.

