

1: Ford Logo, History Timeline and List of Latest Models

Henry Ford: Production & Labor Innovations. The "Tin Lizzie," as the Model T was known, was an immediate success, and Ford soon had more orders than the company could satisfy.

In the company was reincorporated, with Ford, his wife, Clara, and his son, Edsel, acquiring full ownership; they, their heirs, and the Ford Foundation formed were sole stockholders until January , when public sale of the common stock was first offered. The company manufactures passenger cars, trucks, and tractors as well as automotive parts and accessories. Headquarters are in Dearborn , Michigan. The Model T. Courtesy of the Ford Motor Company Early history: Model T and assembly line Henry Ford built his first experimental car in a workshop behind his home in Detroit in Five years later, in , the highly successful Model T was introduced. Demand for this car was so great that Ford developed new mass production methods in order to manufacture it in sufficient quantities. Built between and , it became the model for assembly-line production, turning parts at one end into finished cars at the other. In Ford introduced the first Mercury, a car in the medium-priced range. Reorganization and expansion As early as Henry Ford had acquired The failed introduction of the Edsel model years 1960 occurred amid these successes. Henry Ford II continued to guide the company as chief executive officer 1970 and chairman of the board 1990 In 1990 Ford acquired Jaguar , a British manufacturer of luxury cars. Aston Martin became a wholly owned subsidiary in Later acquisitions included the rental car company Hertz Corporation in , the automobile division of Volvo in , and the Land Rover brand of sport utility vehicles in Ford also purchased a significant share of the Mazda Motor Corporation. However, as Ford struggled in the early 21st century, it began selling a number of its brands. Ford in the 21st century In December Pres. An additional stipulation required the companies to undergo restructuring. The money was initially made available to General Motors and Chrysler; Ford purportedly possessed adequate funds to continue operations and, thus, did not immediately require government relief. Able to avoid bankruptcy for which both General Motors and Chrysler filed Ford experienced increased sales and market share in In addition, Ford adopted various cost-cutting measures and focused on stronger brands. Several months later Ford announced that it would discontinue its Mercury line. However, as sales became sluggish, the automaker looked to expand its products. In Ford Smart Mobility was created to develop car-sharing ventures and self-driving vehicles, among other initiatives. The following year the automaker announced that it was increasing its line of electric cars. However, in Ford announced that it was phasing out all of its passenger cars, except the Mustang and Ford Focus Active. Instead, the company was going to focus on pickups, SUVs, and crossover vehicles.

2: Henry Ford Biography - Childhood, Life Achievements & Timeline

Henry Ford (July 30, to April 7,) was an American automobile manufacturer who created the Ford Model T car in and went on to develop the assembly line mode of production, which.

His father gave him a pocket watch in his early teens. At 15, Ford dismantled and reassembled the timepieces of friends and neighbors dozens of times, gaining the reputation of a watch repairman. His father expected him to eventually take over the family farm, but he despised farm work. He later wrote, "I never had any particular love for the farm—it was the mother on the farm I loved. In , he returned to Dearborn to work on the family farm, where he became adept at operating the Westinghouse portable steam engine. He was later hired by Westinghouse to service their steam engines. After his promotion to Chief Engineer in , he had enough time and money to devote attention to his personal experiments on gasoline engines. These experiments culminated in with the completion of a self-propelled vehicle which he named the Ford Quadricycle. He test-drove it on June 4. After various test drives, Ford brainstormed ways to improve the Quadricycle. Encouraged by Edison, Ford designed and built a second vehicle, completing it in . Ultimately, the company was not successful and was dissolved in January . Harold Wills , Ford designed, built, and successfully raced a horsepower automobile in October . Leland as a consultant; Ford, in response, left the company bearing his name. Ford received the backing of an old acquaintance, Alexander Y. Malcomson , a Detroit-area coal dealer. Ford went to work designing an inexpensive automobile, and the duo leased a factory and contracted with a machine shop owned by John and Horace E. Fort Myers, Florida , February 11, . In response, Malcomson brought in another group of investors and convinced the Dodge Brothers to accept a portion of the new company. Anderson and Horace Rackham. Ford then demonstrated a newly designed car on the ice of Lake St. Clair , driving 1 mile 1. Convinced by this success, the race driver Barney Oldfield , who named this new Ford model " " in honor of the fastest locomotive of the day, took the car around the country, making the Ford brand known throughout the United States. Ford also was one of the early backers of the Indianapolis . It had the steering wheel on the left, which every other company soon copied. The entire engine and transmission were enclosed; the four cylinders were cast in a solid block; the suspension used two semi-elliptic springs. The car was very simple to drive, and easy and cheap to repair. As independent dealers, the franchises grew rich and publicized not just the Ford but the concept of automobiling; local motor clubs sprang up to help new drivers and to encourage exploring the countryside. Ford was always eager to sell to farmers, who looked on the vehicle as a commercial device to help their business. Always on the hunt for more efficiency and lower costs, in Ford introduced the moving assembly belts into his plants, which enabled an enormous increase in production. Although Ford is often credited with the idea, contemporary sources indicate that the concept and its development came from employees Clarence Avery , Peter E. Martin , Charles E. Sorensen , and C. All new cars were black; as Ford wrote in his autobiography, "Any customer can have a car painted any color that he wants so long as it is black". The design was fervently promoted and defended by Ford, and production continued as late as ; the final total production was 15,, This record stood for the next 45 years. This record was achieved in 19 years from the introduction of the first Model T . Although the nation was at war, Ford ran as a peace candidate and a strong supporter of the proposed League of Nations. Henry retained final decision authority and sometimes reversed the decisions of his son. Ford started another company, Henry Ford and Son, and made a show of taking himself and his best employees to the new company; the goal was to scare the remaining holdout stockholders of the Ford Motor Company to sell their stakes to him before they lost most of their value. He was determined to have full control over strategic decisions. The ruse worked, and Ford and Edsel purchased all remaining stock from the other investors, thus giving the family sole ownership of the company. Other auto makers offered payment plans through which consumers could buy their cars, which usually included more modern mechanical features and styling not available with the Model T. Despite urgings from Edsel, Henry refused to incorporate new features into the Model T or to form a customer credit plan. He pursued the project with a great deal of technical expertise in design of the engine, chassis, and other mechanical necessities, while leaving the body design to his son. Subsequently, the Ford company adopted an

annual model change system similar to that recently pioneered by its competitor General Motors and still in use by automakers today. Not until the s did Ford overcome his objection to finance companies, and the Ford-owned Universal Credit Corporation became a major car-financing operation. Labor philosophy The five-dollar wage Time magazine, January 14, Ford was a pioneer of "welfare capitalism", designed to improve the lot of his workers and especially to reduce the heavy turnover that had many departments hiring men per year to fill slots. Efficiency meant hiring and keeping the best workers. Detroit was already a high-wage city, but competitors were forced to raise wages or lose their best workers. He viewed the increased wages as profit-sharing linked with rewarding those who were most productive and of good character. They frowned on heavy drinking, gambling, and what today are called deadbeat dads. The Social Department used 50 investigators, plus support staff, to maintain employee standards; a large percentage of workers were able to qualify for this "profit-sharing. By the time he wrote his memoir, he spoke of the Social Department and of the private conditions for profit-sharing in the past tense, and admitted that "paternalism has no place in industry. But the broad workable plan of investment and participation will do more to solidify industry and strengthen organization than will any social work on the outside. Without changing the principle we have changed the method of payment. The decision was made in , when Ford and Crowther described it as six 8-hour days, giving a hour week, [30] but in it was announced as five 8-hour days, giving a hour week. He explained his views on unions in Chapter 18 of My Life and Work. Most wanted to restrict productivity as a means to foster employment, but Ford saw this as self-defeating because, in his view, productivity was necessary for any economic prosperity to exist. He believed that productivity gains that obviated certain jobs would nevertheless stimulate the larger economy and thus grow new jobs elsewhere, whether within the same corporation or in others. Ford also believed that union leaders had a perverse incentive to foment perpetual socio-economic crisis as a way to maintain their own power. Meanwhile, he believed that smart managers had an incentive to do right by their workers, because doing so would maximize their own profits. Ford did acknowledge, however, that many managers were basically too bad at managing to understand this fact. But Ford believed that eventually, if good managers such as he could fend off the attacks of misguided people from both left and right i. Bennett employed various intimidation tactics to squash union organizing. In the late s and early s, Edselâ€”who was president of the companyâ€”thought Ford had to come to some sort of collective bargaining agreement with the unions because the violence, work disruptions, and bitter stalemates could not go on forever. But Ford, who still had the final veto in the company on a de facto basis even if not an official one, refused to cooperate. For several years, he kept Bennett in charge of talking to the unions that were trying to organize the Ford Motor Company. Sorensen recounted [38] that a distraught Henry Ford was very close to following through with a threat to break up the company rather than cooperate, but his wife Clara told him she would leave him if he destroyed the family business. In her view, it would not be worth the chaos it would create. Overnight, the Ford Motor Company went from the most stubborn holdout among automakers to the one with the most favorable UAW contract terms. The contract was signed in June We can fight General Motors and Wall Street together, eh? Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. July Ford, like other automobile companies, entered the aviation business during World War I , building Liberty engines. After the war, it returned to auto manufacturing until , when Ford acquired the Stout Metal Airplane Company. It used a new alloy called Alclad that combined the corrosion resistance of aluminum with the strength of duralumin. The Trimotor first flew on June 11, , and was the first successful U. Several variants were also used by the U. Ford has been honored by the Smithsonian Institution for changing the aviation industry. Willow Run Peace and war World War I era Ford opposed war, which he viewed as a terrible waste, [40] [41] and supported causes that opposed military intervention. He and about other prominent peace leaders traveled there. Marquis, accompanied him on the mission. Ford talked to President Wilson about the mission but had no government support. His group went to neutral Sweden and the Netherlands to meet with peace activists. A target of much ridicule, Ford left the ship as soon as it reached Sweden. When Wilson made a major speaking tour in the summer of to promote the League, Ford helped fund the attendant publicity. Ford "insisted that war was the product of greedy financiers who sought profit in human destruction"; in he went so far as to claim that the torpedoing of U. Like

many other businessmen of the Great Depression era, he never liked or entirely trusted the Franklin Roosevelt Administration, and thought Roosevelt was inching the U. However, Ford continued to do business with Nazi Germany , including the manufacture of war materiel. The number of slave laborers grew as the war expanded although Wallace makes it clear that companies in Germany were not required by the Nazi authorities to use slave laborers. He "lined up behind the war effort" when the U. Ford broke ground on Willow Run in the spring of , and the first B came off the line in October At its peak in , the Willow Run plant produced Bs per month, and by Ford was completing each B in eighteen hours, with one rolling off the assembly line every 58 minutes. Ford was increasingly sidelined, and others made decisions in his name. Ford grew jealous of the publicity Sorensen received and forced Sorensen out in Articles from The Dearborn Independent , In the early s, Ford sponsored a weekly newspaper that published strongly antisemitic views. At the same time, Ford had a reputation as one of the few major corporations actively hiring black workers, and was not accused of discrimination against Jewish workers or suppliers.

3: History of Henry Ford and the Model T | ShearComfort

Henry Ford (July 30, - April 7,) was an American captain of industry and a business magnate, the founder of the Ford Motor Company, and the sponsor of the development of the assembly line technique of mass production.

He attended the local public schools as well as a private grammar school. In , he became an apprentice in a machine shop. After working there for some time, he went to school in Detroit to be trained as a machinist. With his schooling behind him, Ford went on to become the chief engineer of the Edison Company in . Ford began to experiment with engines in . After playing with some designs for a while, he completed his first gasoline engine in his backyard shop on Bagley Avenue in Detroit. With the success of his first project, he went on to build his first automobile, the Quadricycle, which was completed in . It is now on exhibition in Dearborn. The automobile is like nothing on the road today. It is a basic design consisting of a small wooden box with a single seat. It has a steering tiller, bicycle wheels, and an electric bell on the front. One part of the engine is made from an exhaust pipe from a steam engine and the flywheel is made of wood. The vehicle can still run today. Investors balked before serious production started, and the company folded in . The Henry Ford Company started in November . The stockholders did not like his interest in racing and he left after three months. Henry Leland took over as chief engineer and the company was renamed Cadillac. With his new interest in the automotive market, Ford gained national attention and was sued by the owners of the Selden Patent. Those people had monopolized the manufacture of automobiles. Ford lost the suit in a lower court, but appealed to a higher court. There, he was victorious, making auto building an open industry in . Following his victory in court, Ford decided that every man, rich or poor, should be able to own an automobile. With that decision, the cost of the automobile dropped significantly. The low-priced Model N was a bigger success. He continued to release Models using the alphabet, until he came to the T. The Model T was the first automobile to be mass produced. Ford introduced the assembly line. By saving time using the assembly line, he was able to mass-produce the Model T and get it to the American public at a much lower price. During its year production , the company sold more than 15 million Model Ts. In , Ford developed the first mono-block V-8 engine, which other companies quickly adopted. The Model T proved to be such a great financial success for Ford and his company, that by , more than half of the automobiles on United States roads were Fords. The Model A was produced from to ; more than four million were sold. In , Ford decided that he would share the company profits with his employees. To do this, he reduced the daily work hours from nine to eight hours. The company stockholders wanted to split all of the profits among themselves in the form of dividends. Ford did not want the company to be run that way, so he bought out all of the stockholders in . From the time he bought them out until January , the Ford family had sole control over the company. Following his resounding success with the Ford Motor Company, Ford decided to take a less active part and devote more time to other interests. He established numerous educational facilities, a museum, and an assortment of other buildings. In , he opened the Henry Ford Trade School, which specialized in training for industrial careers. He also opened the Edison Institute School, open to anyone who wanted to enhance his or her education. The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn features many exhibits, including progress in science, invention, handicraft, transportation, manufacturing, and agriculture. Government and the group broke up afterward. Like many businessmen during the Great Depression , Ford felt that unemployment was primarily the fault of poor people. Writing in *Literary Digest* in , Ford denounced organized efforts to alleviate the effects of unemployment: I do not believe in routine charity. I think it a shameful thing that any man should have to stoop to take it, or give it. I do not include human helpfulness under the name of charity. My quarrel with charity is that it is neither helpful nor human. The charity of our cities is the most barbarous thing in our system, with the possible exception of our prisons. The plant in Willow Run, Michigan, was the largest aircraft assembly plant in the world, making B Liberator bombers until the end of the war. The plants he owned also produced Eagle boats, Liberty engines, tanks, jeeps, and other war products. Henry Ford died in his bed at home on April 7, .

Quotes by Henry Ford. It means nothing to me. History is more or less bunk.

Interview with the Chicago Tribune, May 25, Regarding Model T Any customer can have a car painted any

color that he wants so long as it is black. Remark made in Regarding Thomas Edison He felt there was a central processing core of life that went on and on. That was his conclusion. We talked of it many times together. Call it religion or what you like, Mr. It was an intelligent and hopeful religion if there ever was one. Edison went away expecting light, not darkness.

4: The Life of Henry Ford | American Experience | Official Site | PBS

Henry Ford II becomes president of Ford Motor Company. The son of Edsel and the grandson of Henry Ford, Henry Ford II, served as president from to and as chairman and CEO from to When Henry II took over, the company and its bookkeeping practices were in disarray.

December Henry Ford leaves his family farm to pursue his interest in machinery in Detroit. Bryant grew up on a farm a few miles northeast of the Ford homestead. Clara Ford holding baby Edsel, Courtesy: The family is living in a rented house on Bagley Avenue in Detroit. June 4, After two years of spending nearly every free minute refining his engine in the small shed behind his home, as well as in a basement room at Edison Illuminating, Ford completes his first automobile, the "Quadricycle," and drives it through the streets of Detroit. Henry Ford driving the Quadricycle, Courtesy: Over the next several years, Ford will have a number of financial backers, who eventually all become exasperated with his constant attempts to update and improve his models. October 10, Ford enters one of his cars in a mile car race in Grosse Pointe, which he wins. His victory makes him the talk of automotive circles. Soon after, he builds a newer, more powerful racer -- the -- which sets an American speed record of five miles in five minutes 28 seconds. Racing on the Grosse Pointe Track, Courtesy: The Ford Model N, Courtesy: The most successful, the Model N, is described in advertisements as "a high-grade, practical automobile" [raised] out of the list of luxuries. Within months, demand is so high that the company puts new orders on a hiatus. By the end of the year, Highland Park will employ about 13, men. The following day, 10, job seekers clamor for jobs at Highland Park. April After watching an outside movie company film a newsreel in his factory, Ford becomes intrigued by the possibilities for publicity and establishes his own moving picture department. Its two-man staff quickly grows to be a full service production company of over 25, with its own fleet of modern 35mm cameras and a film processing and editing lab at Highland Park. Spring Henry Ford begins secretly buying hundreds of acres of farmland along the River Rouge to build what would become known as the Rouge Plant. Corbis November 24, Henry Ford calls a press conference to announce his plan to end World War 1. The stunt is ultimately a failure. Ford receives an injunction forbidding him from using company funds to build the new plant. Henry and Edsel Ford, Courtesy: The announcement excites the public but alarms the seven remaining Ford Motor Company stockholders. For the first time, the Ford family controls every last share in the Ford Motor Company. And while Edsel may be president in name, Henry still retains power. Henry Ford on the stand, Courtesy: Though Ford won the trial, the press ridiculed the automaker for his lack of historical knowledge and inarticulate performance on the witness stand. The memo represents growing frustration among executives and a time many would recall as the most tense years in the company. In response to the memo, Ford, not used to opposition, humiliates Kanzler at every opportunity and forces him out of the company within months. Henry and Edsel driving the 15 millionth Model T, Courtesy: The same day, Ford announces the company will begin producing a brand new vehicle -- the Model A. Ford had given in to pressure from Edsel and other executives and agreed to discontinue the Model T after mass-producing the vehicle for 15 years. Spring - Fall Highland Park is shut down for six months to prepare for production of the new vehicle, the Model A. The project is immense: Sixty thousand workers are laid off. September 30, Henry Ford purchases land in Brazil to establish rubber plantations in what would become known as "Fordlandia. Ford had once told a colleague that he "wanted the raw materials coming in on one end of the Rouge plant and the finished cars going out the other end. Ford security attacking a UAW organizer, Courtesy: The altercation, which was captured by photographers, became known as "The Battle of the Overpass. Men picket outside Ford during the strike, Courtesy: Reuther Library April Outside the Rouge, 50, Ford employees refuse to work until Ford agrees to meet union demands calling for higher wages, overtime pay, and job security. Ford declares he would rather shut down his factories than give in to the union. June Under pressure from Edsel, the unions, and the government, whose war contracts were at stake, Ford finally signs an agreement with union officials. May 26, Edsel Ford dies at age 49 from incurable stomach cancer. After returning to Fair Lane, Ford remains mentally and physically languid, often failing to recognize old friends and associates, and is carefully kept out of the

public eye. April 7, Support Provided by: [Learn More Related Features.](#)

5: The Henry Ford Story | Ford UK

Jump to section [Our Founding](#) [History](#) [Our 20th Century Legacy](#) [Our Present](#) [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.

Written by David Jones Life without cars in nearly every driveway may seem unimaginable for most Americans today, as cars have become crucial to everyday life. This fact that cars have become such a common and expected presence in the U. His efforts and forward-thinking creations made automobiles accessible to not only the wealthy but to the less affluent as well. Additionally, he also changed how cars, and ultimately other goods, are manufactured. From humble beginnings, the life of Henry Ford was marked by successes that changed the world of transportation and industry. Henry Ford is born on a farm not far from Detroit in what is currently Dearborn, Michigan. His parents are Mary and William Ford. At the age of 16, Henry leaves home for Detroit and a machinist apprenticeship. Henry marries Clara Bryant. The Edison Illuminating Company hires Ford as an engineer. Edsel Ford is born to Clara and Henry. Also during this year, the Edison Illuminating Company promotes Ford to the position of chief engineer. Ford finishes his first vehicle, which took him two years to complete. It is called the Quadricycle. The two-cylinder automobile weighed approximately pounds and had two speeds and a four-cycle gasoline engine. With the help of investors such as William C. As a result, he leaves his position at the Edison Illuminating Company. The Detroit Automobile Company closes. Ford designs a car that wins a mile race against Alexander Winton, a top race-car driver at the time. The attention that comes from this race leads to the founding of the Henry Ford Company, where he serves as the chief engineer. Ford leaves the Henry Ford Company and builds the Ford race car. By July, the first Model A is sold to a dentist in Chicago. The Model T is released. Known as the "Tin Lizzie," the Model T was made to be affordable for everyone and easy to maintain. The vehicle sold so well the company had difficulty producing enough to meet the high demand. It would ultimately become one of the best-selling cars of all time. Ford becomes the first company to use an assembly line for automotive production. This revolutionary process allowed the manufacturer to produce the Model T significantly faster to meet demand. The first full-service industrial motion picture firm, the Photographic Department , is formed by Ford Motor Company to create motion pictures and still photographs. The Ford Model TT is produced. The manufacturing of Eagle-class antisubmarine patrol boats begins at the River Rouge Complex. Ford builds the first of his multi-engine, all-metal Tri-Motor airplanes , which would become the first airplanes used by commercial airlines. The planes are given the nickname "Tin Goose. In efforts to open rubber plantations as a source of rubber for the Ford Motor Company, Ford buys land in Brazil. This would later become the industrial town known as Fordlandia. The vehicles produced at this factory were built from the ground up using raw materials owned by the Ford Motor Company. The new Ford Model A is released to the public. The Ford Model T is discontinued after having sold more than 15 million vehicles. After declaring in April that he would rather close factories than answer union demands for higher pay, Ford agrees in July to give workers some of the highest wages in the industry, plus a union shop. Also this year, Ford begins making jeeps for the military along with Willys-Overland. During a trip to Richmond early in the year, Ford has a stroke, which affects him both mentally and physically. At the age of 83, Henry Ford dies at his estate.

6: History of Giving | Henry Ford Health System - Detroit, MI

Ford Motor Company is an American automaker and the world's fifth largest automaker based on worldwide vehicle sales. The company's headquarters are located at 1 Ford Road, Dearborn, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit, the automaker was founded by Henry Ford, on June 16,

The company was created as a result of the efforts of Henry Ford, who even after facing disappointment with the Detroit Automobile Company and the Henry Ford Company managed to get back on his feet. In 1903, Henry Ford turned to an acquaintance, Alexander Y. Malcomson, for financial help in order to start a new company, which is how the Ford company began. Malcomson was able to put up the money and both of them soon began working on creating their own vehicles by taking help from the Dodge Brothers Founders of Dodge who provided the automobile parts. However, soon enough, Malcomson and Ford realized they had sunk too much money into the project and the Dodge Brothers were demanding their payment. As a result, Ford and Malcomson thought to bring in new investors into their business. Given its worldwide operations, Ford Motors is now one of the most successful automobile manufacturers. But, as you can see, the success of the company did not happen overnight. In fact, it took more than years for the company to earn its current status. In 1908, the production demands were at an all-time high, but since a simple chassis would take over 12 hours to develop, Henry Ford moved from the assembly line to auto production. This accelerated speed eventually helped Ford lower its model T prices, thus allowing the company to score even higher profits. By 1917, the company had begun construction of the River Rouge Complex and introduced its first ever truck. In the 20s, Ford Motor Company began manufacturing antisubmarine boats and tri-motor airplanes. In 1927, Ford introduced the Model A which had dominated the automobile market throughout the 20s and the 30s. After his death, Henry returned to the position of president of the Ford Motor Company. Within two years, the company introduced two new series the F-Series Line of trucks and the Ford Series. In 1956, Ford had become a publicly traded company and during the 60s it introduced one of the most famous vehicles of all time, the Ford Mustang. In 1965, the company celebrated its 60th anniversary and a year later, the famous Ford GT was introduced as a premium sports car. In addition to producing luxury and commercial vehicles and automotive parts, the company now even provides vehicle servicing, leasing, and financing. Interesting News Henry Ford was perhaps the first person in the automotive industry and history to predict that in the future there will be a time where flying cars will be made available. And his vision proved to be right with the introduction of the new Aeromobil 3.

Henry Ford is born on a farm to William and Mary Ford in Springwells Township, Michigan, located nine miles outside of Detroit. Henry Ford leaves his family farm to pursue his interest in.

Search Select Your Language You can select the language displayed on our website. Click the drop-down menu below and make your selection. But more than any other single individual, he was responsible for transforming the automobile from an invention of unknown utility into an innovation that profoundly shaped the 20th century and continues to affect our lives today. Innovation requires self-confidence, a taste for taking risks, leadership ability and a vision of what the future should be. Henry Ford had all these characteristics, but it took him many years to develop all of them fully. His beginnings were perfectly ordinary. Early on Ford demonstrated some of the characteristics that would make him successful, powerful, and famous. He organized other boys to build rudimentary water wheels and steam engines. He learned about full-sized steam engines by becoming friends with the men who ran them. He taught himself to fix watches, and used the watches as textbooks to learn the rudiments of machine design. Thus, young Ford demonstrated mechanical ability, a facility for leadership, and a preference for learning by trial-and-error. These characteristics would become the foundation of his whole career. But young Henry was fascinated by machines and was willing to take risks to pursue that fascination. In he left the farm to become an apprentice at the Michigan Car Company, a manufacturer of railroad cars in Detroit. Over the next two-and-one-half years he held several similar jobs, sometimes moving when he thought he could learn more somewhere else. He returned home in but did little farming. By now Ford was demonstrating another characteristic—a preference for working on his own rather than for somebody else. Ford did not know a great deal about electricity. He saw the job in part as an opportunity to learn. Henry was an apt pupil, and by had risen to chief engineer of the Illuminating Company. But he had other interests. He became one of scores of people working in barns and small shops across the country trying to build horseless carriages. Aided by a team of friends, his experiments culminated in with the completion of his first self-propelled vehicle, the Quadricycle. It had four wire wheels that looked like heavy bicycle wheels, was steered with a tiller like a boat, and had only two forward speeds with no reverse. A second car followed in Ford now demonstrated one of the keys to his future success—the ability to articulate a vision and convince other people to sign on and help him achieve that vision. He persuaded a group of businessmen to back him in the biggest risk of his life—a company to make and sell horseless carriages. But Ford knew nothing about running a business, and learning by trial-and-error always involves failure. The new company failed, as did a second. To revive his fortunes Ford took bigger risks, building and even driving racing cars. The success of these cars attracted additional financial backers, and on June 16, Henry incorporated his third automotive venture, Ford Motor Company. But by this time Ford had a bigger vision: The Model T was easy to operate, maintain, and handle on rough roads. It immediately became a huge success. Ford could easily sell all he could make; but he wanted to make all he could sell. Doing that required a bigger factory. In the company moved into a huge new plant in Highland Park, Michigan, just north of Detroit. There Ford Motor Company began a relentless drive to increase production and lower costs. Henry and his team borrowed concepts from watch makers, gun makers, bicycle makers, and meat packers, mixed them with their own ideas and by late they had developed a moving assembly line for automobiles. But Ford workers objected to the never-ending, repetitive work on the new line. Turnover was so high that the company had to hire 53, people a year to keep 14, jobs filled. At a stroke he stabilized his workforce and gave workers the ability to buy the very cars they made. Model T sales rose steadily as the price dropped. Ford named his year-old son Edsel as president, but it was Henry who really ran things. Absolute power did not bring wisdom, however. Success had convinced him of the superiority of his own intuition, and he continued to believe that the Model T was the car most people wanted. He ignored the growing popularity of more expensive but more stylish and comfortable cars like the Chevrolet, and would not listen to Edsel and other Ford executives when they said it was time for a new model. By the late s even Henry Ford could no longer ignore the declining sales figures. In he reluctantly shut down the Model T assembly lines and began designing an all-new car. It

appeared in December of and was such a departure from the old Ford that the company went back to the beginning of the alphabet for a name—they called it the Model A. The new car would not be produced at Highland Park. In Ford had started construction on an even bigger factory on the Rouge River in Dearborn, Michigan. Iron ore and coal were brought in on Great Lakes steamers and by railroad. The Model A was competitive for only four years before being replaced by a newer design. In , at age 69 Ford introduced his last great automotive innovation, the lightweight, inexpensive V8 engine. In addition to troubles in the marketplace, Ford experienced troubles in the workplace. Struggling during the Great Depression, Ford was forced to lower wages and lay off workers. He fought back with intimidation and violence, but was ultimately forced to sign a union contract in . But after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Ford Motor Company became one of the major US military contractors, supplying airplanes, engines, jeeps and tanks. The influence of the aging Henry Ford, however, was declining. The vast quantities of war material turned out on those assembly lines were crucial to the Allied victory in World War II. High wage, low skilled factory jobs pioneered by Ford accelerated both immigration from overseas and the movement of Americans from the farms to the cities. The same jobs also accelerated the movement of the same people into an ever expanding middle class. In a dramatic demonstration of the law of unintended consequences, the creation of huge numbers of low skilled workers gave rise in the s to industrial unionism as a potent social and political force. The Model T spawned mass automobility, altering our living patterns, our leisure activities, our landscape, even our atmosphere. Why He Innovated There is a prophetic story of how the year-old Henry Ford got a pocket watch for his birthday, and then proceeded to take it apart. He simply wanted to know how it worked. Ford was interested in every aspect of life around him. He explored innovative forms of education which, in time, lead to the founding of the Edison Institute, known today as The Henry Ford. In a single location, Ford brought together dozens of buildings and millions of artifacts. It was one of the largest collections of its kind ever assembled, as well as a bold and ambitious new way for people of all ages to discover and explore the richness of the American experience for themselves.

8: The History of Ford Motor Company

Henry Ford: Henry Ford, American industrialist who revolutionized factory production with his assembly-line methods. He was the creative force behind an industry of unprecedented size and wealth that in only a few decades permanently changed the economic and social character of the United States.

He launched his second car manufacturing operation, Ford Motor Company, in 1903. It was followed by Models B and C. In 1908 he issued the Model T, which became a huge hit. This made the vehicle the most sold serial car from that time. Its glory lasted through 1927 before it was replaced by a new version of the Model A. In its early days, Ford pioneered a new type of industrial production technique known as assembly lines. In 1909 Ford acquired the Lincoln Motor Company, a luxury car line that had gone bankrupt, originally named after President Abraham Lincoln. In the next few years, he brought more curvy shapes to the Model T, which made it an even bigger hit. He also began to issue cars in different colors besides black for the first time. Edsel modernized his cars further in the 1920s with safety glass and hydraulic brakes. Ford T, source sxc. The Lincoln Continental was introduced in 1939. Ford experimented with soybeans as a material for manufacturing plastic parts and paint throughout the decade. Henry Ford then returned as head of the company for two years before turning control over to Henry II. The legendary founder Henry Ford died in 1945 at the age of 85. It was designed for extra space, cruising, and customization for car enthusiasts, achieving both elegance and performance. Its various body styles included convertibles, coupes, station wagons, and sedans. It was an instant success after being featured on the cover of Time and Newsweek, selling over 1 million units its first year. It was the ultimate sports car, designed with both V6 and V8 engines with additional options for hardtops, coupes or convertibles. By the mid-seventies, over 3 million Mustangs had been sold. More new models arrived in 1971. The Ford Fiesta was launched in 1976. It became a top-selling small car in Britain and Germany through the early eighties. It was succeeded by the Focus, which first appeared in 1992. A larger family car, the Sierra lasted from 1982 through 1993, which replaced the popular Cortina, made from 1982 through 1992. Henry II resigned from Ford Motor Company in 1979 and for the first time, someone outside the Ford family took control of the business. Ford acquired Swedish auto-maker Volvo in 1999 then sold it in 2010. Ford also acquired the sports car Jaguar in 2000 and Land Rover in 2001. Demand for bigger vehicles such as SUVs declined as Ford began dropping less fuel-efficient vehicles, moving toward more fuel-efficient vehicles such as the hybrid Escape. The company refused to file bankruptcy even while the entire nation sank into recession in 2008. Ford discontinued its luxury Mercury vehicles in 2011. Hey, share some love, use some of our social buttons and help us make more great articles this way!

9: Model T - HISTORY

Ford Motor Company, American automotive corporation founded in by Henry Ford and 11 associate investors. In the company was reincorporated, with Ford, his wife, Clara, and his son, Edsel, acquiring full ownership; they, their heirs, and the Ford Foundation (formed) were sole stockholders until January , when public sale of the common stock was first offered.

Visit Website Did you know? In the first several years of their marriage, Ford supported himself and his new wife by running a sawmill. In , he returned with Clara to Detroit, where he was hired as an engineer for the Edison Illuminating Company. Rising quickly through the ranks, he was promoted to chief engineer two years later. On call 24 hours a day for his job at Edison, Ford spent his irregular hours on his efforts to build a gasoline-powered horseless carriage, or automobile. Birth of Ford Motor Company and the Model T Determined to improve upon his prototype, Ford sold the Quadricycle in order to continue building other vehicles. He received backing from various investors over the next seven years, some of whom formed the Detroit Automobile Company later the Henry Ford Company in After his departure, it was reorganized as the Cadillac Motor Car Company. The following year, Ford established the Ford Motor Company. At the time, only a few cars were assembled per day, and groups of two or three workers built them by hand from parts that were ordered from other companies. Ford was dedicated to the production of an efficient and reliable automobile that would be affordable for everyone; the result was the Model T , which made its debut in October As a result, he put into practice techniques of mass production that would revolutionize American industry, including the use of large production plants; standardized, interchangeable parts; and the moving assembly line. Mass production significantly cut down on the time required to produce an automobile, which allowed costs to stay low. Even as production went up, demand for the Tin Lizzie remained high, and by , half of all cars in America were Model Ts. After a court battle with his stockholders, led by brothers Horace and John Dodge, Henry Ford bought out all minority stockholders by In , Ford moved production to a massive industrial complex he had built along the banks of the River Rouge in Dearborn, Michigan. The plant included a glass factory, steel mill, assembly line and all other necessary components of automotive production. That same year, Ford ceased production of the Model T, and introduced the new Model A, which featured better horsepower and brakes, among other improvements. By that time, the company had produced some 15 million Model Ts, and Ford Motor Company was the largest automotive manufacturer in the world. Ford opened plants and operations throughout the world. In , Ford introduced the first V-8 engine, but by the company had dropped to number three in sales in the automotive industry. Despite his progressive policies regarding the minimum wage, Ford waged a long battle against unionization of labor, refusing to come to terms with the United Automobile Workers UAW even after his competitors did so. Ford Motor Company signed its first contract with UAW in , but not before Henry Ford considered shutting down the company to avoid it. He made a failed bid for a U. Senate seat in , narrowly losing in a campaign marked by personal attacks from his opponent. In the Dearborn Independent, a local newspaper he bought in , Ford published a number of anti-Semitic writings that were collected and published as a four volume set called The International Jew. He died two years later at his Dearborn home, at the age of

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