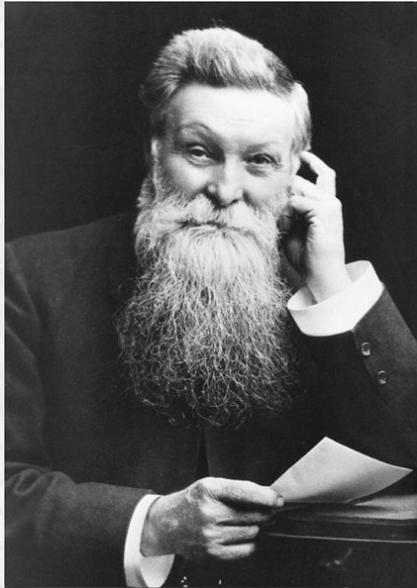


Discovering New Materials



Aim

- I can tell you about the inventor John McAdam.

Success Criteria

- I can tell you the name of the new process John McAdam invented.
- I can explain how his invention has impacted on life today.
- I can tell you two interesting facts about John McAdam's life.

John McAdam

Early Life

John McAdam was born in Scotland on 21st September 1756 and was the youngest of 10 children.

When he was 14 his father died and John went to live with his uncle William, who was a merchant in New York. John also became a merchant and married Gloriana Nicoll.

In 1783, with his wife and two children, John McAdam moved back to Scotland and bought an estate in Ayrshire.



John McAdam

Road Building



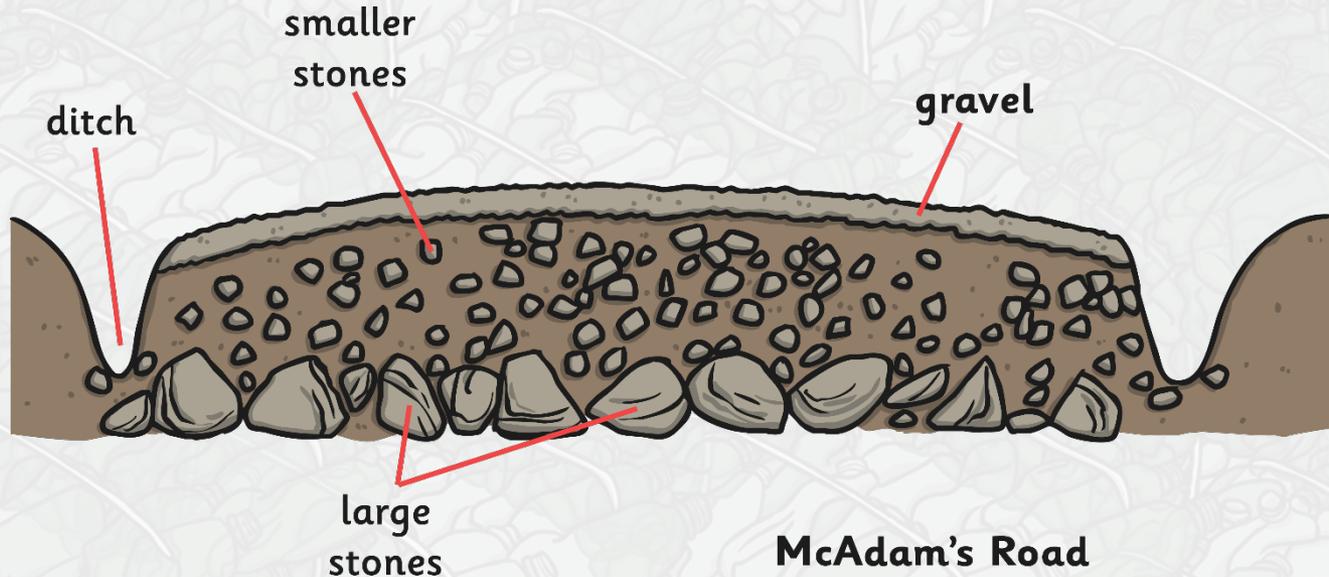
John McAdam became interested in road building and experimented with using different materials.

Roads at the time were often muddy and dangerous. Others were cobbled and very bumpy to travel over.

John McAdam invented a new process called 'macadamisation', which created smooth hard roads.



Macadamisation



Macadamisation was the name given to John McAdam's construction process of building roads.

Large stones were placed at the bottom and small stones and gravel were crushed on the top to create the surface and structure. The roads were also curved, so that rainwater ran off the surface, instead of creating big puddles in the middle of the road.

McAdamisation Success



Macadamisation was a success and roads were built in this way across the world. This photo shows the building of a macadam road in 1823.



In 1819 the Parliamentary Committee praised his work and the efficiency and economy of his methods.

By 1823, seventy Road Trusts were consulting John McAdam and his 3 sons had started to help him.

The term macadam road is not often used today.

John McAdam

Later Life



John McAdam held patents on his methods, but they were so popular that they were not protected.

Parliament eventually awarded him some money, although he was never fully compensated for his work, nor did he receive royalties.

Later in his life he was offered a knighthood, although he turned it down and passed the honour to his son.

John McAdam died on November 26th in 1836.



John McAdam

Tarmac



Tar was later added to macadam roads to stabilise them. This became known as **tarmacadam**, which is now commonly known as **tarmac**.



How many places can you think of where **tarmac** is used today?

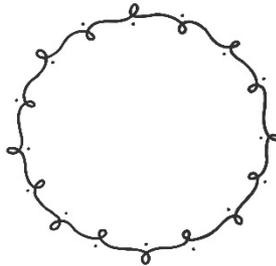
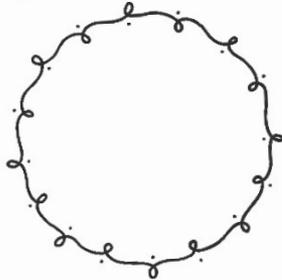
Fact File



John McAd

John McAdam

John McAdam



Early Life

John McAdam was born in _____
in 1756.

When he was 14 he moved to _____
with his _____.

He died in _____.

Early Life

Word Bank	1836	roads	gravel	macadamisation	uncle
	New York	Scotland	rainwater	success	smoother

Road Building

John invented a new way to build _____ called _____.

He used big stones with smaller stones and _____
on top.

He made the roads curved so _____ would run off.

His idea was a _____ and lots of people built roads
using his ideas.

He helped lots of other people to build _____ roads.

Impact Today

Vocabulary

Do you know the meaning of all these words?

patent

process

merchant

cobbled road

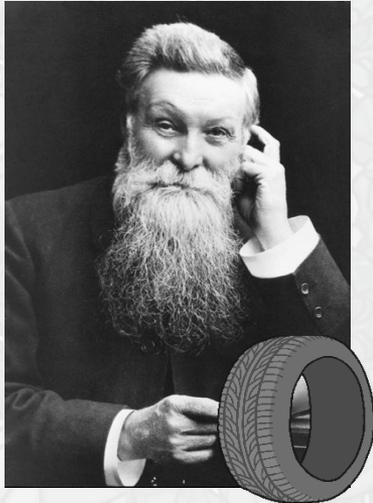
construction

structure

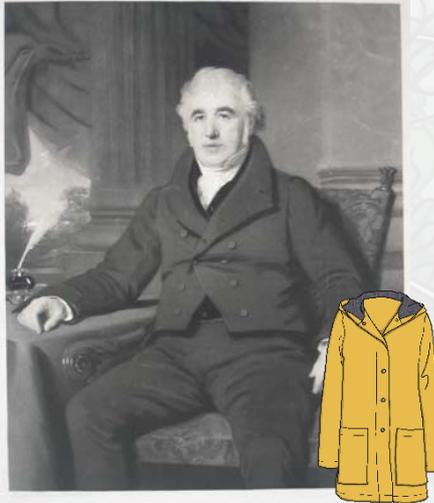
economic

efficient

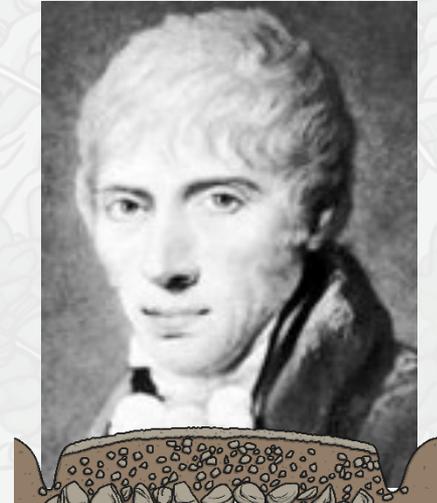
Other New Materials



John Dunlop was a Scottish inventor who invented the air-filled rubber tyre. It was originally invented in 1887 to use with bicycles, and then became very useful when automobiles were developed.



Charles Macintosh was a Scottish inventor and chemist who invented waterproof fabrics in 1818. The Mackintosh raincoat was introduced in 1824.



John McAdam was a Scottish engineer who experimented with using new materials to build roads, inventing a new process called 'macadamisation'.