

Henry Ford

<http://gardenofpraise.com/ibdford.htm>

Directions: Underline the words in the story as you find them, unscramble them and write them in the boxes below. Henry Ford was born on a farm near Detroit, Michigan. As a child he was fascinated by machines. He always carried around in his pockets nuts and bolts and machinery parts. Clara Bryant became his wife in 1888. He returned to the farm, built a house, and ran a sawmill. They had one child, a son they named Edsel. When Henry was twenty-eight he became an engineer at Edison Company which made electrical generating stations. He was made chief engineer two years later and advanced to a salary of \$125 a month. The first car he made was a "gasoline buggy" called the Quadricycle. He drove it around for two years, and it drew a crowd everywhere he went. When he was forty years old Ford and eleven investors formed the Ford Motor Company. They had a \$28,000 investment in it. The Model T Ford was introduced on October 1, 1908. Some called it the "Tin Lizzie" and the "Flivver". The cost of the touring car: \$950. Five years later he started using an assembly line and could produce cars faster and cheaper until the price of the touring car fell to \$360. Assembly lines had been used before, but he was the first to use conveyor belts to move the parts where they needed them. Henry Ford's motto was "simplicity" . Of course, this simplification resulted in only one color choice. He wrote, "A customer can have a car painted any colour that he wants - so long as it is black." Ford hired handicapped workers. He thought as an employer his job was to serve others. He paid his workers \$5 a day. This was nearly twice as much as most employers paid their employees. He felt there was something sacred about wages and what they represent. He instituted the 40 hour week with men working eight hours a day, five days a week. He produced tractors to help the farmer to farm more efficiently. Henry Ford died at the age of 83 of a cerebral hemorrhage .

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