

Henry Ford

Henry Ford was born in 1863 in what is now Dearborn, Michigan. He grew up on his family's farm and went to a one-room school. From an early age he was interested in tools and how things worked. He was especially interested in steam engines.

In 1879, he left home and went to nearby Detroit to work as a machinist. He made extra money by repairing and selling watches. He worked for many different companies and became good at operating steam engines.

In 1891, Henry Ford became an engineer with the Edison Illuminating Company. He became Chief engineer for the company in 1893. This job gave him enough time and money to do experiments with engines.

In 1896, his experiments led to his invention of a self-propelled vehicle, or 'horseless carriage.' This was an early type of car, or automobile. It had four wire wheels that looked like bicycle wheels. It had only two forward speeds and could not go backwards. After this, he decided to start his own business making automobiles. The company he started became Ford Motor Company.



In 1908, this company began making the Model T. This automobile, or car, was easy to drive and take care of. It became a huge success. In order to make enough of these cars Henry Ford opened a large factory in Highland Park, Michigan in 1910



By 1918, half of all the cars in the United States were Model Ts. Ford Motor Company continued to grow and grow. It is still a very important company today.