*Working with* ***one*** *person from your group, complete this sheet.*

*1. Print this page (one for* ***EACH*** *member of the group)*

*2. Go to the website:*

[*http://www.cipo.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/cipoInternet-Internetopic.nsf/eng/h\_wr03652.html#part1*](http://www.cipo.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/cipoInternet-Internetopic.nsf/eng/h_wr03652.html#part1)

*3. FILL IN THE MISSING BLANKS BELOW on your printed sheet.*

*4. Check your invention to see that it meets all the criteria to apply for a patent (you may have to do some research, for example, to see if it’s already been invented).*

**What is a patent?**

**You can use your patent to make a profit by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it, or using it as an asset to negotiate funding.**

Through a patent, the government gives you, the inventor, the right to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** others from making, using, or selling your invention from the day the patent is granted to a maximum of **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** years after the day on which you filed your patent application.

In exchange, you must provide a full description of the invention so that all Canadians can benefit from this advance in technology and knowledge.

People may then read about (though not make, use, or sell) your invention without your permission.

People occasionally confuse patents with **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, industrial designs, and integrated circuit topographies. Like patents, these are rights granted for intellectual creativity and are forms of IP. However:

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** cover new inventions (process, machine, manufacture, composition of matter), or any new and useful improvement to an existing invention;
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** may be one or a combination of words, sounds or designs used to distinguish the goods or services of one person or organization from those of others in the marketplace;
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** provides protection for literary, artistic, dramatic or musical works (including computer programs), and other subject-matter known as performer's performances, sound recordings and communication signals;

**Trade secrets**

You may be tempted to protect your creation by simply keeping its information secret and selling it. The information is then known as a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. You will run into problems, however, if another person independently invents or discovers the subject matter of the trade secret — there is nothing to prevent that person from using it, applying for a patent, or publishing the information.

**What can you patent?**

**Suppose you are the proud inventor of an electric door lock. How do you know if you can get a patent for it? There are three basic criteria for patentability:**

1. The invention must show **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (be the first in the world).
2. It must show **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (be functional and operative).
3. It must show inventive **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and not be obvious to someone skilled in that area.

The invention can be a product (for example, a door lock), a composition (for example, a chemical composition used in lubricants for door locks), an apparatus (for example, a machine for making door locks), a process (for example, a method for making door locks), or an improvement on any of these.

**Fast fact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Is your invention patentable?**

In order to be patentable, your invention must show **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** To be granted a patent, you must be the original inventor of your door lock (or the assignee of the inventor), and the door lock must be the first of its kind in the world.
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A valid patent cannot be obtained for something that does not work, or that has no useful function. If your door lock doesn't work, it will fail the utility test.
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** To be patentable, your invention must be a development or an improvement of an existing technology that would not have been obvious beforehand to a person of ordinary skill in the technology involved. Your door lock must make other designers in the field say, "Why didn't I think of that"?

You may obtain a patent for an improvement to an existing invention, but keep in mind that the original patent may still be in force. If this is the case, manufacturing or marketing the product with your improvement would probably be an infringement. This situation is often resolved by agreement between the patentees to grant licences to each other.

Describe whether or not your invention meets the guidelines to apply for a patent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_