

The Italian Marconi (1874-1937) believed that radio had a big future as a new kind of communication. No one in Italy took him seriously, but he moved to England and made his dream come true.

Every year he made his radio sets and aerials more powerful until he could send messages across oceans.



In 1912 the Titanic, the world's biggest ship, hit an iceberg and started to sink. Radio operator Jack Phillips used one of Marconi's radio sets to send out a plea for help. Jack died in the disaster, but as a result of his bravery 705 people were rescued.

Marconi didn't believe in music and talk on radio. He thought radio should stick to Morse code. He was wrong. But he was right to imagine that radio could be a worldwide industry.

When he died in 1937 every radio station on Earth went silent for some minutes in memory of a great scientist and a great inventor.

The Russian Popov (1859-1905) invented the aerial at the same time as Marconi. It's common for inventors to come up with the same idea at the same time.

a kind of...: eine Art ...
radio set: Radioapparat
until: bis
message: Botschaft
plea: dringende Bitte, Gesuch
disaster: Katastrophe
bravery: mutige Tat
to rescue: retten

to stick to: kleben, haften an
to invent: erfinden
aerial: Antenne
common: üblich
wave: Welle
sound: Ton
current: Strom



Radio waves are waves of electromagnetic energy made by atoms.

In a radio station a microphone turns sounds into a varying electrical current. And then a transmitter turns the electrical current into radio waves.

When the waves hit an aerial they produce an electric current. This current with the sound signal is made more powerful and the loudspeakers play the sounds.



Translate:

- Wer erfand die Antenne?*
- Was erfand Marconi?***
- Warum ging er nach Großbritannien?
- Welches war das größte Schiff der Welt?
- Warum irrte er sich?
- Wann sank die Titanic?
- Was brauchte Jack Phillips?
- Weißt du, was eine Radiowelle ist?
- Wozu wird eine Antenne gebraucht?
- Wie funktioniert (=to work) ein Mikrofon?
- Was war sein Traum?

*WHO ist Subjekt und wird deshalb nicht mit DO umschrieben: Who came up with the same idea?
 ** Vollverben werden als Frage mit DO umschrieben. Im Präteritum nimmt dann das DO die Vergangenheitsform an. He invented the aerial. – When **did** he invent the aerial?