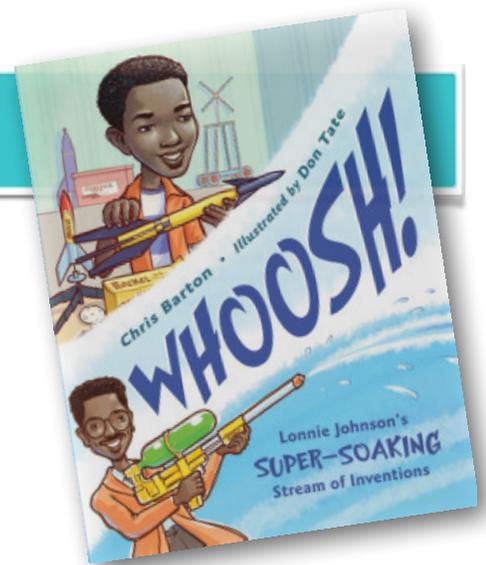


## Whoosh!

**Author:** Don Tate

**Illustrator:** Chris Barton



**Genre:** Biography

**Summary:** Lonnie Johnson, an engineer by heart. He entered science fairs, excelled in college, and worked as an entrepreneur. Discover an innovator who faced many challenges but is bringing joy to many families.

**Suggested Grades:** 2nd-3rd Grade

### Standards Alignment:

Describe how characters in a story respond to events and challenges.  
Describe the structure of the story.  
Recognize common synonyms.

### Before Reading:

What do engineers do? How do Super Soakers work? Who created the Super Soaker? Why do engineers create things? What challenges do you face when you want to create something new?

### During Reading:

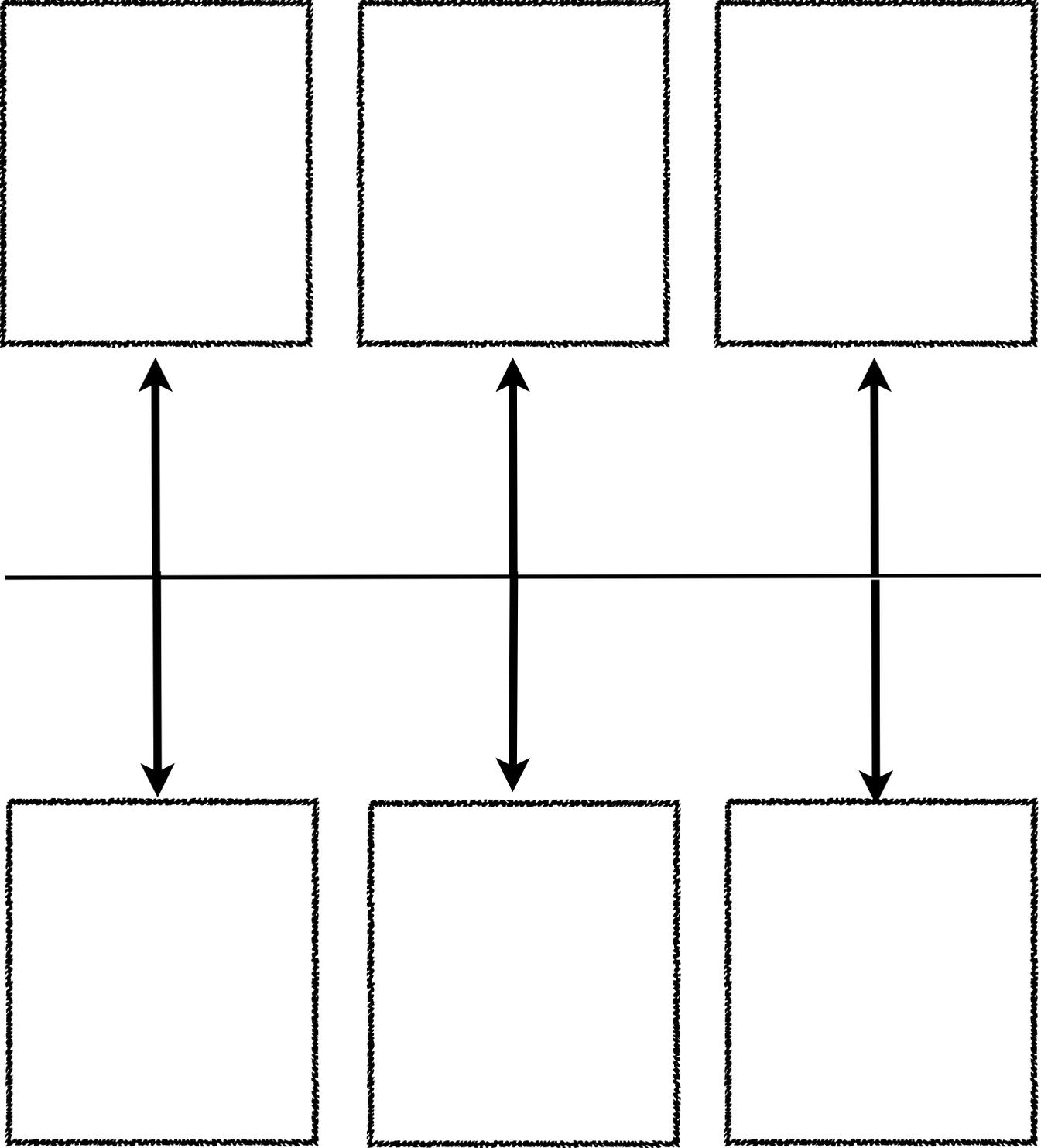
What could Linex do? What was Linex made from? What challenge did Lonnie face as a child? What did Lonnie build as a college student? What challenge did Lonnie face at NASA? Why did Lonnie make the water gun? What was the accident that gave him the idea? After Lonnie made the water gun what happened to him?

### After Reading:

What made Lonnie Johnson an engineer? How did he feel throughout the story? What did Lonnie do that was so important? Name words that have the same meanings. Look at the diagrams in blue, what do the numbers mean, what are the inventions about?

# Lonnie the Great

Draw a picture timeline about the important events in Lonnie's life.



# Yesterday & Today

Research other engineers:  
1 from the past and 1 in the present.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Name)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Year)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Name)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Year)

# Similar Words

Write the word on the line that is the synonym to the underlined word.  
Read the sentence.

The young man **studied** engineering so he could work for NASA. Synonym  
learned

## Synonyms

designing  
formulate

ensure  
synced

prototype  
investor

challenge  
tinker

orbiter  
jukebox

invention  
chamber

1. I had so much fun **creating** my first car, one day it will fly. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Once I bought my computer I **matched** it with the software. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The bird lost its nest so she had to **make** a new one. \_\_\_\_\_
4. It was my first day of school and my father had to **confirm** that I was in the right class. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The electrician had to **fix** my fan once it broke. \_\_\_\_\_
6. My **discovery** was the first of its time so I patented it. \_\_\_\_\_
7. My **music device** can play over 10,000 songs because it gets music from an app. \_\_\_\_\_
8. It took two years for the **shuttle** to reach its destination. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Always make a **model** of your invention before you make the final one. \_\_\_\_\_
10. When it was time to build my shopping mall I asked a **lender** for help. \_\_\_\_\_
11. The day that I let for college, I had a big **confrontation**. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Money is stored in a large bank **container**. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Similar Words-Answers**

**1.**designing

**2.**sync

**3.**formulate

**4.**ensure

**5.**tinker

**6.**invention

**7.**jukebox

**8.**orbiter

**9.**prototype

**10.**investor

**11.** challenge

**12.**chamber