



Teacher Resource

CSIRO Centenary

Focus Questions

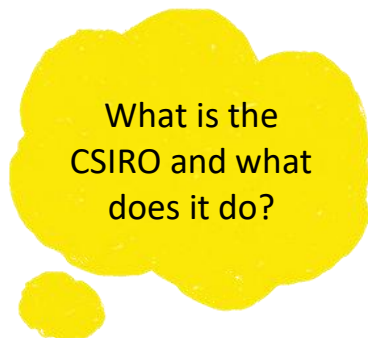
Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. In pairs, discuss the BTN story. Record the main points of the discussion and share them with another group.
2. Name three inventions made by the CSIRO.
3. Choose one of the inventions. How has it changed people's lives?
4. Is it important to invest in scientific research? Explain your answer.
5. What was surprising about this story?

Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN CSIRO Centenary story, hold a class discussion using the following discussion starters.

- What is the CSIRO and what does it do?
- What was one interesting invention or discovery you learned about in the BTN story? Why did it stand out to you?
- How has the CSIRO helped improve people's everyday lives? Can you think of an example from the BTN story?
- If you were a scientist at the CSIRO, what problem would you like to solve and why?
- What questions do you have about the BTN story?



EPISODE 19

21 July 2026

KEY LEARNING

Students will explore the history of the CSIRO and its scientific breakthroughs that have improved people's everyday lives.

CURRICULUM

Science – Years 5 & 6

Examine why advances in science are often the result of collaboration or build on the work of others.

Investigate how scientific knowledge is used by individuals and communities to identify problems, consider responses and make decisions.

Science – Year 7

Explain how new evidence or different perspectives can lead to changes in scientific knowledge.

Examine how proposed scientific responses to contemporary issues may impact on society and explore ethical, environmental, social and economic considerations.

Activity: KWLH Research

The KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on a topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I <u>w</u> ant to know?	What have I <u>l</u> earnt?	<u>H</u> ow will I find out?

Research Inquiry questions

Students will collect and record information from a wide variety of sources. Students may develop their own question for inquiry or select one of the questions below.

- What is the CSIRO and why was it created?
- What are some of the most significant inventions or discoveries made by the CSIRO and why are they significant?
- How has the CSIRO helped improved life in Australia through science and technology?
- Which CSIRO invention do you think has had the biggest impact on the world? Explain your reasons.
- What kinds of scientists and researchers work at the CSIRO and what skills do they need?
- If you could work at the CSIRO, what problem would you want to investigate and how would you try to solve it?

Activity: CSIRO Inventions

Before watching BTN's story about the CSIRO ask your students what they think the following things all have in common.

What do you think these four things all have in common?



CSIRO Inventions

Explain to your students that these everyday items are Australian inventions that were created or improved by scientists at the CSIRO. Watch the BTN CSIRO Centenary story to learn more about the history of the CSIRO and its scientific breakthroughs that have improved people's everyday lives.

Students will then investigate one item in more detail using the following questions to help guide their research.

Research: CSIRO Invention

- What is the invention?
- Who invented it?
- What inspired the invention?
- How does it work?
- What problem does it solve?
- What is it made from?
- What makes its design unique?
- How does it help people?
- How has it changed people's everyday lives?
- What questions do you still have about it?
- What might life be like if it had never been invented?

Activity: Design your own invention

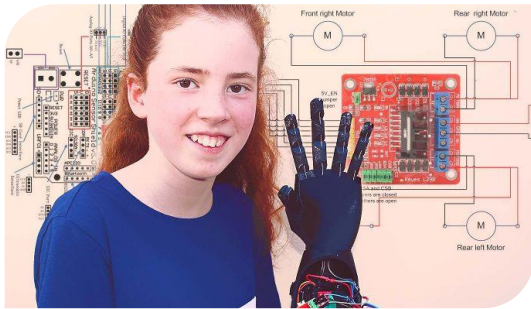
In small groups, students will design their own invention or make a modification to an invention (to improve the design or function of a product). Students will research the following and then share their research findings with the class or create a display in the classroom.

Research: Design your own invention

- What are some real-world problems that need solving? Think about problems you have seen, experienced or learned about. Include both big and small problems.
- Choose one problem from your list. Why is it important to solve?
- What is your invention? How will it help solve the problem?
- How does your invention work?
- What materials would you use to make your invention?
- What makes your invention different, creative or useful?
- What inspired your idea?
- Draw and label your invention. Give it a creative name.
- Prepare a short presentation explaining your invention and how it solves the problem. Present it to the class or wider school community.

Activity: Inventions by Kids

Check out these BTN stories featuring kids talking about their inventions which help solve real-world problems.



[Bionic Arm Builder](#)



[Young STEM Inventor](#)



[Aged Care App](#)



[Little Big Idea Winner](#)

Useful Websites

- [CSIRO Inventions](#) – CSIRO
- [Our top 10 inventions](#) – CSIRO
- [20 Australian inventions that changed the world](#) – Australian Geographic
- [Inventions that Shape History](#) – TEDEd