



WHO GETS THE CREDIT?

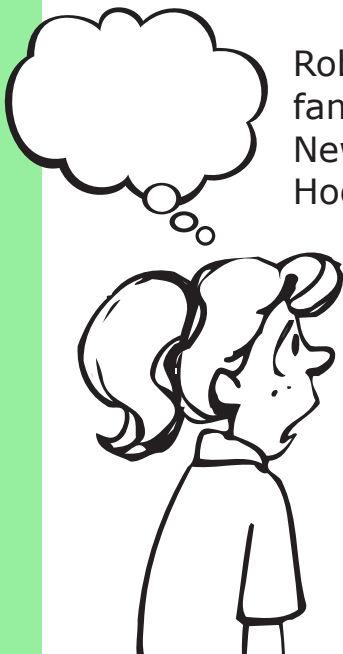
Skills

analysis,
reflection,
evaluation,
creativity,
extrapolation

Robert Hooke had an astonishing array of accomplishments in a variety of fields during his lifetime. From the chapter "Robert Hooke's Flying Machine Powered by Artificial Muscle" in *Edison's Concrete Piano*, or from Internet research, list 12 of his accomplishments.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Robert Hooke, based on his accomplishments, SHOULD be more famous than he is. His peers Sir Christopher Wren and Sir Isaac Newton certainly surpassed him in lasting fame and glory, while Hooke's contributions are almost forgotten. In fact, some of Hooke's architectural work is attributed to Wren, and some of his scientific discoveries and instruments are commonly attributed to Newton.





WHO GETS THE CREDIT?

It is natural to want to get the credit you deserve. How would you feel if someone else took, or was given, credit for your ideas or actions?

The reasons why Hooke was not given due credit are complicated and impossible to understand fully. We can only guess; here are some guesses:

He made enemies – Hooke bragged about his work and made enemies, so people had a reason to want to overlook his accomplishments

His secrecy – Hooke kept some of his best work a secret so he was never given credit

Social prejudice – Hooke came from humble origins in a class society that favoured aristocracy so he was overlooked and did not have as much influence as the upper classes

Timing – Hooke died before his rival, Sir Isaac Newton, so Newton had plenty of opportunity to help the world forget his “competition”

Can you think of some other reasons why someone might not get due credit?





WHO GETS THE CREDIT?

Thinking of your own life as an example, do any of the factors above apply to you? Which ones?

What can you do to minimize the effects?

Brainstorm with your classmates other ways to minimize the factors that influence whether you get due credit.

How Much to Tell?

If you are the kind of person who has lots of ideas, you might struggle with how freely to share them. I know I do, and lots of other creative people I know do too. *Edison's Concrete Piano* talks about examples of inventors whose ideas were stolen. But, keeping things a secret is no solution; if you keep your best thoughts to yourself, you'll miss out on the pleasure of having a positive impact on others and you'll never get recognized, or get "credit". You need to find a balance. If you have lots of ideas, you have less reason to be secretive because for you, there are always more ideas on the way!

Do you keep your ideas secret or tell everyone all about them?

Do you think you should be more or less secretive? Why or why not?
