



**S&I Article**

# Who is an Innovator?

**Awakening the creative scientist within you**

When we hear the word innovator, we often imagine famous scientists, inventors, or tech founders. But innovation is not limited to laboratories, patents, or big discoveries.

At its core, an innovator is anyone who notices a problem, asks questions, and tries to find a better way. Innovators can be students, teachers, artists, engineers, or everyday people who refuse to accept "this is how it has always been done."

Innovation begins not with answers, but with curiosity.

## Who Is an Innovator?

An innovator is someone who:

- Observes the world closely
- Feels curious about how things work
- Notices what is inefficient, unfair, or confusing
- Tries to improve existing ideas or create new ones

Innovators are not always the smartest people in the room. Often, they are the most curious and persistent. They are willing to try, fail, learn, and try again.

### Qualities of a Good Innovator

While innovators come from different backgrounds, they often share a few key qualities:

- **Curiosity:** Asking “why?” and “what if?”
- **Problem sensitivity:** Noticing small problems others ignore
- **Courage:** Being unafraid of failure or mistakes
- **Patience:** Understanding that good ideas take time
- **Adaptability:** Changing approach when something doesn't work
- **Empathy:** Designing solutions that help real people

These qualities are not inborn talents – they are skills that can be developed.

### Are You Creative? (Yes, You Are!)

Many students believe creativity belongs only to artists or writers. In reality, creativity is simply the ability to connect ideas in new ways. If you have ever:

- Found a shortcut to solve a problem
- Asked a question that others didn't
- Combined ideas from different subjects

You were being creative.

In science and innovation, creativity means imagining possibilities beyond what already exists. It is not about being “right” immediately; it is about exploring options fearlessly.

### Developing Your Innovation Mindset: Skills for Success

An innovation mindset is a way of thinking that welcomes questions, experiments, and learning from failure. You can build this mindset by practising a few habits:



- **Observe deeply:** Look at everyday objects and systems how could they be improved?
- **Ask better questions:** Instead of “What is the answer?”, ask “Why does this happen?”
- **Experiment often:** Small experiments teach more than perfect plans
- **Reflect:** After failure, ask “What did I learn?”

Innovation is a process, not a moment of sudden genius.

### Wake Up the Innovator in You

The innovator in you is already there it just needs permission to think freely. Schools often focus on correct answers, but innovation begins when you are allowed to explore incorrect ones too.

Start small:

- Improve something in your classroom
- Solve a daily inconvenience at home
- Redesign a process that feels slow or confusing

Every innovation starts as a small idea taken seriously.

## Thinking Like an Inventor: Unlocking Your Creative Science Mind

Inventors think differently. They don't see science as facts to memorise, but as tools to solve problems. When faced with a challenge, an inventor asks:

- What do I already know that can help here?
- Can ideas from another subject be applied?
- What happens if I reverse the problem?

Science becomes exciting when it is used as a lens to understand and redesign the world.



## Thinking Outside the Box: Challenging Assumptions in Science

Many breakthroughs happen when innovators challenge assumptions. Questions like:

- Does it have to be done this way?
- What if the opposite were true?
- Who decided this rule, and why?

Thinking outside the box does not mean ignoring science it means questioning limits respectfully and intelligently. Some of the greatest discoveries happened because someone challenged what everyone else accepted.

## The Science of Problem-Solving: How Innovators Think

Innovators follow a simple but powerful cycle:

1. Identify a problem
2. Understand it deeply
3. Imagine multiple solutions
4. Test and improve
5. Learn from failure and repeat

This method is used in laboratories, startups, and even everyday life. Innovation is science in action.

## Final Thought: Innovation Is a Way of Seeing

Innovation is not about being extraordinary, it is about being attentive, curious, and brave.

So the next time you notice something that feels confusing, inefficient, or unfair, don't ignore it. That moment might be the beginning of your journey as an innovator.

Because innovation doesn't start in a lab. It starts in your mind.

## Riddles 2511

1. I'm tall when I'm young and short when I'm old. What am I?
2. What has roots as nobody sees, is taller than trees, up, up it goes, and yet never grows?
3. What is invisible yet makes a big impact?
4. I'm a bond that can't be seen, tighter than the strongest seam. I hold the world together so tight, yet I'm invisible to the sight. What am I?
5. What element is found in our blood, giving life and flow?

*(Answers on Back Cover Inside)*