Ear protectors are designed to keep people’s ears safe. For example, workers who use loud machines often wear special ear protectors to save their hearing.

The original ear protectors, however, were designed to protect people’s ears from the cold. In fact, the first pair was invented more than 150 years ago by Chester Greenwood, a fifteen-year-old boy from Maine.

It’s very cold in Maine during the winter. Chester wanted to ice skate, but his ears hurt too much. First, Chester wrapped a wool scarf around his head, but that didn’t work. The wool made his ears itch.

Next, Chester formed two loops of wire to fit around his ears. Then he asked his grandmother to sew cloth and fur over the loops. These ear warmers solved his problem.

Soon, Chester’s friends and neighbors wanted a pair of ear warmers like his. His grandmother and mother began to sew ear warmers for their friends and neighbors. Then Chester changed the design. He added a flat piece of steel that went over the top of the head to hold the ear warmers in place. Soon, Greenwood’s Ear Protectors were selling in several nearby states.

In 1877, Chester patented his design. Later, during World War I, he supplied ear warmers to US soldiers. At that time, soldiers were spending long hours outdoors, where it was very wet and cold. Chester’s invention helped them protect their ears.

Although he is best known for inventing ear warmers, Chester also patented many other inventions. These include a wide-bottom tea pot, a rake with steel teeth, and a machine that drills holes in wood.

In 1997, the state of Maine named December 21, the first day of winter, as Chester Greenwood Day. Each year on that day, people in his home town hold a parade and a coolest-ears contest to honor Chester Greenwood, their young inventor.
Young Inventors: Chester Greenwood

Write all these words in the right places to complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about Chester Greenwood. You can reread the article before you begin, but don’t look back at it while you are working. After you’ve completed the puzzle, read it to someone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cold</th>
<th>ear</th>
<th>fur</th>
<th>hurt</th>
<th>itch</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>invented</td>
<td>loud</td>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>scarf</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you wear ___________________ protectors? Ear protectors can protect your ears from ________________________ noises. The first ear protectors, though, were designed to help protect people’s ears from the ________________________.

Chester Greenwood lived in the state of ________________________, where winters are very cold. Chester liked to ice skate, but the cold made his ears ________________________. First, he tried to keep his ears warm by wrapping a ________________________ around his head. That didn’t work because the wool in the scarf made his ears ________________________.

Next, he took two loops of wire and asked his grandmother to sew cloth and ________________________ over the loops. In this way, he ________________________ the first ear warmers. The ear warmers we use today are based on the ones Chester invented more than ________________________ years ago!
Young Inventors: Chester Greenwood

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.