

Cornell Note-taking

<u>Topic:</u> Elijah McCoy "The Real McCoy"	<u>Name:</u>
	<u>Date:</u>
	<u>Notes relating to key words</u>
<u>Key word/Main idea:</u> Birth	1843, Colchester, Ont.
Family	Parents former American slaves. Underground to Canada.
<u>Key word/Main idea:</u> Education	Age 15, mechanical engineering apprentice, Edinburgh, Scotland.
Career	Returned to US. Underemployed as locomotive fireman and oiler.
<u>Key word/Main idea:</u> Racism	Had to work as locomotive oiler instead of as an engineer for which he was qualified.
Invention: lubricator cup	Invented a system by which locomotive parts were automatically lubricated which saved time, effort and money.
<u>Key word/Main idea:</u> Success	His patented device came to be used by railroads and steamship lines. He was promoted to the position of instructor in the use of his inventions.
Death	Died, Oct. 10, 1929 after a lengthy illness.

Summary of Notes in your own words:

Elijah McCoy, aka "The Real McCoy" was an inventor whose talents helped him rise above the constraining racism of his day. McCoy was born in 1843 in Colchester, Ont. to parents who had successfully traveled the Underground Railroad to freedom. At age 15, Elijah apprenticed as a mechanical engineer in Edinburgh, Scotland. Upon his return, because of the racist attitudes of his day, he found himself underemployed as a locomotive fireman and oiler. At that time, trains needed frequent lubrication which meant hours lost due to down time for maintenance. McCoy devised a lubricating cup which lubricated moving parts as the train rolled thereby saving hours and dollars for the railroads. His patented invention revolutionized the lubrication process for trains and steamships. McCoy was eventually promoted to the level of instructor for the Michigan Central Railroad. He died on Oct. 10, 1929 after a lengthy illness.