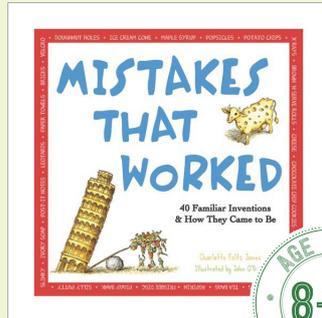


# Mistakes That Worked

by Charlotte Foltz Jones and Illustrated by John O'Brien

## Objectives

Growth Mindset  
 Do Your Best  
 Never Give Up  
 Learning from Mistakes  
 Failures are Important



A collection of stories about 40 familiar inventions and how they came to be. Mark Twain was asked to name the greatest of all inventors and he responded....“Accident.” Children will be fascinated by great inventions and discoveries that were accidental, unintentional and even mistakes! It is easy to fail and abandon an idea (fixed mindset) but it’s more difficult to fail, learn from the failure and recognise another use for the failure or try another direction (growth mindset). *“Intelligence is not to make no mistakes, but quickly to see how to make them good.” Bertolt Brecht, 1930*

**Note to teachers:** If your students are not familiar with Growth Mindset vs. Fixed Mindset, we encourage you to first use NED’s How to Grow a Brain introductory lesson to build background.

### Key Vocabulary

**Growth Mindset:** *Everyone has a brain! Your smarts and abilities can grow if you challenge yourself and exercise your brain by trying new things and doing your best all the time. You may not always succeed at first, but you can’t give up - you will make mistakes but you must keep trying and learning from your every mistakes. Mistakes help your brain to grow. Every mistake is a step closer to success. Don’t say, “I can’t do that.” Instead say, “I can’t do that YET.” Keep your brain growing and learning and believing in yourself and the power of your brain.*

**Fixed Mindset:** *Some people act and believe that some brains are better than others. If you have a fixed mindset-you believe that it doesn’t matter how hard you work, you just can’t get better at it. NED knows that if you do your best your best will get better! If you have a fixed mindset, you don’t want others to know that you haven’t learned something yet, so you might pretend to know things that you really haven’t learned yet. You might be afraid to try new things because you might fail and once you make a mistake or fail, you don’t want to try again or try it in a different way. NED says “Never give up and keep trying and you will learn something new each time and eventually get better at it.”*

**Inventors:** *A person who creates or makes something new, like a new device, process or object that is useful to others.*

**Discoveries:** *The act of finding or learning something for the first time. Research and exploring often lead to discoveries that are not expected.*

**Accidents:** *Something that happens suddenly or unexpectedly. It was not planned or intended but happened by chance. Some accidents are great discoveries.*

## Before Reading

Choose any of the short stories from this collection of 40 short stories of mistakes that worked. They can be used on a regular basis in the classroom to inspire, motivate and encourage students to keep a growth mindset when they face obstacles, challenges or failures. If multiple copies of the book are available – instruct groups of students to read different examples and share with the class.





# Cause & Effect



**Cause** = *The reason why something happened*

**Effect** = *The result of what happened*



# summary organizer

.....  
Somebody

.....  
wanted

.....  
But then

.....  
so

.....  
summary:

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Encouragement Notes

Brighten your child's day with notes of encouragement, especially when your child makes a mistake. Use the printable notes and add a personal note for them on the back.

I am so  
**Proud of you**  
for **NOT GIVING UP!**  
**KEEP TRYING**

**I LOVE**  
that you are  
**NOT AFRAID**  
to make mistakes.

**DON'T**  
**QUIT** \*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
I know  
you can do  
this!

I know  
it's hard,  
- but -  
**NEVER**  
**GIVE UP** ○○○○○

**DON'T BE AFRAID TO**  
**Try new** ☆  
**things** ☆  
**IT'S FUN**

**YOU MAKE MY**  
**Heart smile**  
**WHEN YOU DO**  
**YOUR BEST**

**KEEP**  
**EXPLORING**  
I can't wait to hear about  
what you learned!  
=====

I wish that **PLAN A**  
had worked...  
**TRY PLAN B**