

A short story of an extraordinary inventor

You have probably seen this vehicle somewhere.
Why does it have the name Goodyear on it?



Rubber has been used for years now. But it took a lot of time to make it as perfect as it is today.



Below, you will find a few facts from the life of a scientist and a determined dreamer who sacrificed everything to make rubber perfect.

Complete the text. Use the verbs in brackets in their correct forms.

Charles Goodyear's life **1** (**devote**) to improving the quality of rubber. He wanted to make more stable rubber. He didn't want it to melt in the summer and crack in the winter. His goal **2** (**achieve**) accidentally by mixing rubber and sulphur at a high temperature. He **3** (**name**) his discovery vulcanization. It **4** (**patent**) in 1844.

Goodyear sacrificed his family life. When he **5** (**run out**) of money, he begged or **6** (**sell**) his family's belongings. Even his children's textbooks **7** (**sell**). He never sold any teacups, though, only because they **8** (**use**) in his experiments. He **9** (**send**) to prison for failing to pay his creditors.

His own health **10** (**ruin**). Most of the time, Goodyear worked in his own kitchen without any protection. He inhaled the fumes of toxic substances. He **11** (**die**) at the age of 59 in 1860, \$200,000 in debt. The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., founded in Akron, Ohio, in 1898, **12** (**name**) in his honour. Also, the Goodyear Blimp bears his name. Nowadays, everybody knows the name, but not many people know the story behind it.