A History of Cars

The first steam engine was invented in 1770 by Frenchman Nicolas Joseph Cugnot, but the pioneer in the automobile industry was the German Carl Benz – the first person to make a three-wheeled car with a gasoline engine in 1885, which was patented a year later. Following a trip from Mannheim to Pforzheim and back, during which Mr. Benz's wife, Bertha, proved to everyone that a vehicle without horse power was perfectly suitable for daily transportation, Carl Benz became the first automobile manufacturer in the world.

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The era of the car began in 1892 with mass production of vehicles in Chicago, USA. Cars were made with 4-wheel-drive, electric ignition systems, and automatic oil pumps and could reach speeds of about 20 km/h. Automobiles have since become a major industry in many countries, including Volkswagen in Germany, Ford in the United States, and Toyota in Japan. Current trends are towards fuel economy, environmental friendliness, comfort, and impressive design.

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Who patented the first car?

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Where did Mrs. Bertha Benz drive to?

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Can you name a car manufacturer other than Volkswagen, Ford, and Toyota?