

Comparing Inventors: Dr. Grandin's Life

Temple Grandin was born on August 29, 1947 in Boston, Massachusetts. She did not talk until she was three and a half years old. At the age of two, doctors said that Temple had autism. Autism often makes it hard for someone to talk or know how others are feeling.

Temple loved math and science, but school was hard. Other children made fun of her for being different. When she was 14, she threw a book at a classmate and was expelled from school. In 1961, she spent the summer at her aunt's ranch in Arizona. Her aunt had cattle and Temple liked them. Temple often says that she "thinks in pictures." She saw that cattle think like her. Cattle see details around them that most people miss.

In 1965, Temple created her first invention, a squeeze machine. This idea came from cattle chutes she saw on her aunt's ranch. Cattle chutes keep cattle calm when they are given shots by holding the cattle firmly. Temple's squeeze machine holds people firmly, like a hug.



Temple Grandin's Squeeze Machine



Temple earned a college degree in psychology in 1970, and a master's degree in animal science in 1975. In 1976, she invented the curved chute for moving cattle. The curved system keeps cattle calm. She earned her doctoral degree in animal science in 1989.

Dr. Grandin was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 2010 and was also named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people that year. Today, more than half of the cattle in the U.S. are handled using her curved chute design. This allows ranchers to keep their cattle calm as they doctor them. Dr. Grandin is a professor at Colorado State University.
