

## STEM@Home: Session 4

Humans have invented lots of devices that save the day—and save lives.

A few examples:

- Seat belts save nearly eighteen thousand lives each year.\*
- Vaccines save more than three million lives worldwide each year.\*\*
- Installation of modern sewer systems eliminated deadly cholera epidemics from the world’s major cities beginning in the late 1800s.
- The discovery of penicillin, the first antibiotic, has saved more than eighty-two million lives.‡
- Invention of the incubator for premature babies has increased survival rates from only 15 percent to 85 percent.§

You don’t have to save a life to save the day, however. Ask your parents, grandparents, an aunt, an uncle, or an adult friend about something they did that made them feel super. This could be an accomplishment they were proud of or something they did to help someone else.

Are there ways that you can imagine saving the day? What are some choices you can make in your life that will help you save the day sometime in the future?

\* “Seat Belts: Your Single Most Effective Safety Step,” [http://www.nsc.org/safety\\_road/DriverSafety/Pages/SeatBelts.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/safety_road/DriverSafety/Pages/SeatBelts.aspx).

\*\* “F.A.Q.,” <http://www.sanofipasteur.com/en/faq.aspx>.

† “CholeraPrevention,” <http://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/prevguid/p0000002/p0000002.asp>.

‡ “Lives Saved,” <http://www.scienceheroes.com/>.

§ Stina Caxe, “The Baby Sideshow: A History of the Incubator,” <http://stinacaxe.hubpages.com/hub/caxe21incubator>.