



INVENTOR & MAKER OF THE WEEK

Ole Kirk Christiansen

CARPENTER & FOUNDER OF LEGO

Christiansen was born in 1891 in Denmark. From a young age he enjoyed working with wood.

His first carpentry shop burnt down. When he opened his second workshop he noticed that toys were his best selling products.

Even after his company went bankrupt, he kept producing wooden toys like trucks and yo-yos. He called his toy company 'Lego' from the Danish words 'Leg Godt' meaning 'play well'.

In 1942 his workshop burnt down again and he lost everything. He was close to giving up but opened another factory in 1944. In 1947 they bought an expensive machine to make plastic toys.

In 1949 they produced their first plastic toy brick and Ole's son spent 10 years making it even better. Finally by January 1958, 65 years ago, the design for the famous Lego brick was patented.

Ole Christiansen died two months later so never knew about Lego's success. The Lego company is still run by the Christiansen family and is the biggest toy company in the world. There are over 400 billion bricks in existence today!

