Heron’s Aeolipile
Heron of Alexandria invented the aeolipile in Alexandria, Egypt, around 150 B.C. The aeolipile is a device that transfers steam energy into rotational motion. While Heron considered the aeolipile to be a toy, today it is considered the precursor of the jet engine.

Archimedes’ Screw
Around 269 B.C. Archimedes invented a device for pumping water out of ships. Similar in shape to a screw used to hold wood together, the Archimedes’ Screw was used to transport water with a minimum of labor. It is still used today in crop irrigation and wastewater treatment plants.

Chinese Water Clock
A water clock uses a steady flow of water to measure time. It was invented in China in about A.D. 200 and used until about 700 years ago. In one version, water ran through a series of cauldrons placed on a staircase. Every two hours a servant would place a sign in front of the clock indicating which two hours had passed.

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