



Worcester Institute for Senior Education

# Intellectual Property for the Rest of Us

One of the earliest parts of the U.S. Constitution established the nation’s interest in the promotion of science and invention by authorizing Congress “to promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries.” Since then, copyrights, patents, and trademarks have had a complex and contentious impact on science, technology, and the arts. This course will review the history, law, and use of patents, copyrights, and trademarks in the United States as seen from daily life.

Topics to be covered: History of US intellectual property law, copyrights, patents, trademarks, intellectual property rights in the digital age.

## Class Outline

Copies of the class presentations, along with links to resources discussed in class, are available at <http://queenlake.com/wise/ip-course/>.

Class	Theme
9/10	Introduction
9/17	Copyrights
9/24	Patents
10/1	Trademarks
10/8	Digital Futures

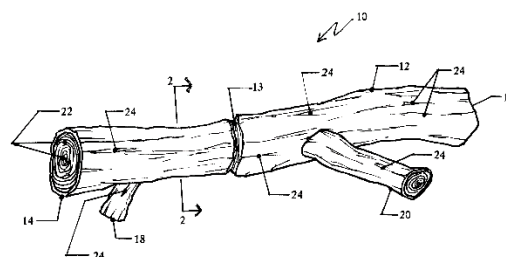


Figure 1 Patent for [Animal Toy](#)

## Recommended Resources

- [Intellectual Property: Law & The Information Society](#) by James Boyle and Jennifer Jenkins
- [United States Copyright Office A Brief Introduction and History](#)
- [Trademark Basics](#)
- [Process for Obtaining a Utility Patent](#)

## Contact Information

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