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Engineers Build a Better World

Shah Selbe, *National Geographic Society*

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"Engineers create the society that we live in," says National Geographic Explorer Shah Selbe. "They give us the tools to solve humanity's greatest mysteries ... they save lives." He cites Leonardo da Vinci, the Wright brothers and Ada Lovelace, often described as the world's first computer programmer, as examples of inventors whose contributions to the world were feats of engineering.



Transcript

So I wanted to talk a little bit about engineering, because this is something that I talk about a lot. I feel like engineering is in a little bit of a crisis of character, but thankfully now with tech being cooler, it's starting to change a little bit, but I'm a firm believer in engineering's ability to change the world, and so I'll talk a little bit about that. A lot of times when people talk about engineers like when you see how they are portrayed in the media or on comics and stuff like that, they're always kind of the nerdy people, the introverts, the ones that don't really talk to people very well. They are the Dilbert for those of you that are old enough in the audience know who Dilbert is. But I want to say engineers are much more than that. Leonardo da Vinci was an engineer. I have Ada Lovelace there, the daughter of Lord Byron, she was the first computer programmer and the Wright Brothers' technology turned us into a global society. So engineers are the ones that create the society that we live in, they create this - the built society that you and I enjoy every single day. They give us the tools to solve humanities greatest mysteries. They save lives.

There is lots of stuff that engineering does behind the scenes that it don't necessarily get credit for and in my opinion there is a lot more that you can do with engineering that we haven't quite tapped into so, including marketing it better.