

STEEL LIBS

Wonderful World of Welding!

Did you know..

Welding connects pieces of steel into a variety of shapes, sizes, and combinations—and it's older than you might think. The process was first discovered approximately 5,500 years ago by a clever Bronze Age worker who used their creativity and outside-the-box thinking. First, they heated the metal over a very hot fire until it started to melt. Then, they pounded it furiously with a hammer to apply both pressure and heat, a process that's still known as forging and still in use in some parts of the world today. This steel forging method was the only way to weld for centuries then modern welding was born around the early 1900s and revolutionized the world that we live in.

Anything that is made of steel can be welded, no matter how large it is. There are examples of welding everywhere in the world around us, from cars to railroads, art to aircraft, pipelines to satellites, wind turbines to solar panels, boats to spaceships, skyscrapers to bridges. The process of welding has helped transform the construction industry to build structures faster than ever before. Today there are more than 80 unique welding processes in use, cricket that's a lot! Arc welding is still the most common form of welding for structural steel. In arc welding, an electric current flows between two electrodes, passing through a special gas mixture. General Boiler Company constructed the first all-welded steel buildings in the U.S. in 1924.

Specially trained people weld steel. They use the latest technology lots of heat, and, of course, some very cool safety equipment to build amazing bridges, buildings, and other structures in their communities. Welders shape our society and build a better place for future generations. If you want to become a welder, you should contact _____ the American Welding Society and the American Institute of Steel Construction to learn more!

