

HISTORY



YEAR 2

WHAT ARE THE TOP INVENTIONS OF THE LAST 150 YEARS?

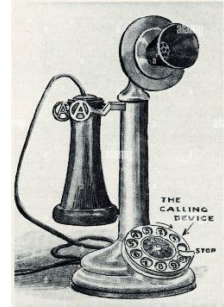
The Big Picture

Life has changed a lot in the last 150 years. In this topic, children will look at inventions that they might take for granted and explore how they were invented, create a timeline of how the invention has been improved over the years and (most importantly) compare and contrast what life was like before and after it was invented. At the end of the unit, children might be able to choose which invention they feel has been the most important and suggest reasons to support their idea.

We know about these inventions because they are used all the time! Some of them have changed over the years, but some remain very similar. We also have photos, videos and old newspapers which show us what it was like, as well as some objects that still exist.

With each invention, we ask the questions:

- What did people do before it was invented?
- How was it invented?
- How has it evolved over time?
- How has this improved people's lives?



End Point Knowledge

1876 – Telephone by Alexander Graham Bell

- The telephone built upon the electric telegraph (telegram service and morse code) to become the easiest form of communication.
- Now almost everyone has one in their pocket!

1903 – The Aeroplane by Wilbur and Orville Wright

- Jet engines would allow people to travel more of the world more quickly.

1907 – Plastic by Leo Baekeland

- Plastic is tough, cheap and easy to make into complex shapes.
- It's proving to be harmful to the environment.
- How can we balance useful and harmful plastics in our daily lives?

1923 – Hearing Aids by Miller Reese Hutchison

- The invention of the electronic hearing aid has allowed deaf people to hear with more clarity – especially in the last 40 years.

1936-38 – The Z3 Computer by Konrad Zuse.

- We use computers every day, in fact, it's hard to imagine a time without them.
- The Z3 was the first step towards what we'd call a modern computer.

Key Vocabulary

Inventor, invention, engineer, device, machine, assist, photography, recording, computing, vehicle, transport