

People Are a History of Connection

Now, more than ever, we need to stay connected as we are unable to be together in person. Consider the ways we connect with people and the dramatic changes in communication since the invention of electricity. Explore the evolution of sharing information from the days of mailing letters back and forth to the instant messaging world we live in now.

- How do we stay connected?
- How has communication evolved throughout history?
- How has technology changed the way we connect?



Make a Communication Timeline

The way that we maintain connections has evolved throughout history. From cave art came symbols that eventually led to cuneiform and hieroglyphs. The development of alphabet systems was a huge leap for communication that brought about processes developed to share and send written or coded messages and information. Electricity changed everything and the invention of the telegraph, followed by the telephone, significantly transformed the way we communicate and stay connected.

Instructions

Do some research and learn how communication has evolved over time. Then use the provided resource at the end of the packet. What can you discover about each method of communication and what it took to develop?

- **Option 1** – Cut out each circle and put the events and innovations in order.
- **Option 2** – Using the provided events and innovations, create a digital timeline.
 - o Try Adobe Spark (<https://spark.adobe.com/make/timeline-maker/>)
 - o Or Prezi (<https://prezi.com/presentation-template/timeline/>)
 - o There are countless online options!

Reflection Questions

- Is there one innovation or development that you want to learn more about?
- Was there something on the timeline that surprised you or something that you hadn't thought about?
- What did you notice about the developments prior to the invention of electricity compared to the developments afterwards? How are they different? What else do you notice?
- Choose one event or innovation and take it a little further:
 - o How did it change the way we stay connected?
 - o Did it change the way we connect locally? Globally?
 - o What tangential developments came with this innovation?

Citations

- https://medium.com/@isavit_blog/history-of-communication-ab61216cbf76
- <https://learn.g2.com/history-of-communication>



Telephones, Cell Phones, Satellite Phones, Oh My!

Advancements in telephone technology have undoubtedly impacted our lives. Alexander Graham Bell's telephone was invented in the 1880s, but telephonic devices were in development as early as the 17th century.

 **Check out this resource on phones**
WEBSITE: si.edu/spotlight/phones



Instructions

What can you discover about the invention of the telephone and how it has evolved?

- What is its history?
- What was it like when it was first developed?
- How has communication over the phone changed throughout the years?
- Why were changes made to the telephone throughout its existence?
- Where do you think telephone technology will go in the future?

Once you've answered those questions, develop a presentation, a brochure, or a commercial for the telephone! Show how it has changed and what you think the future holds. Be sure to include images showing the evolution of the phone from its early days to now.



Imagine a Time Before Cell Phones

Today, we are connected more than ever through the internet, smart phone and video technology, satellites, information stored in the cloud, apps, sensors, and more. This allows us to share information almost instantaneously across the globe. Chances are you have been using a cell phone or tablet to communicate and connect with people during this time. Can you imagine being isolated like you are now without your device?

Take a look at these recent statistics from DataReportal's 2020 Global Digital Overview:





Reflection Questions

- What does global digital access mean in terms of the way you have access to the world?
- Is immediate access to information and social groups a good or bad thing? Why?
- What do you think the future holds? Have we reached our peak connectedness?
- Do you think that digital connections mean we have fewer human connections?
- Are the daily usage statistics surprising?
 - o Do you think these numbers have changed due to Coronavirus restrictions?
 - o Do you think you spend more or less time interacting with media than the average?
 - o Would you be willing to keep a connectedness log? What might you discover?

Go Further

Transport yourself back 50 years! Suppose it is 1970 and civilization is facing a similar pandemic that requires social distancing and isolation. Yes, there were phones and televisions in the 70s, but no internet as we know it and no wireless communication networks.

How would you stay connected? How would things be different than they are now?

Consider the following questions and see if you can come up with ten ways you could stay connected.

- How would you stay connected to your friends and family?
- How would you stay connected to your school responsibilities?
- How would you document and share about your life in self-quarantine?

Students! Answering our questions? Using our strategies? Share them with us at discovery@worldstrides.com.

How Do We Stay Connected?

Make a COMMUNICATION TIMELINE

Take a look at the events and innovations below.
Cut out each of the circles and see if you can put them in order.
Can you find a date for each event or innovation?

