

Contents and information for Teachers



Changing technology



Changing technology collection

This collection is designed to explore changing technology. Although our range of objects and images are from within living memory, you can add items or images to depict technological changes prior to that. The objects provided in the collection fall into several categories, household items, music and entertainment technology and communication technology. Card sets of images extend the range into transport where of course, big changes are apparent but sadly it is not an area which provides readily available conveniently sized artefacts! However, it is still an area you may wish to include in your studies and the images and information we have provided should help with that.

Writing and calculation technology

Cards provided include four showing computer developments, and others depicting writing and calculating developments.

1960s portable manual typewriter



Typewriters were a Victorian invention, (Christopher Latham Scholes 1867) although there were fairly rare, and very heavy and ornate items at the time.

Post war, large offices often featured typing pools with row upon row of typists (usually female) typing up documents, invoices, bills of lading, contracts and any other paperwork a business might produce. Smaller offices may have had just one typist/secretary. Even though electric typewriters were patented in 1900, small affordable ones did not become widely available until the 1960s, via companies such as IBM and Remington, but their days were already numbered. By the 1970s typewriters morphed into word

processors which allowed easy amendments to what was being typed. These quickly took over and typing pools shrank. Even those were short-lived though, as the first micro-computers allowed not just documents to be typed but financial transactions to be recorded and processed more efficiently. Hence the typists' jobs virtually vanished and many women moved into better, more varied roles.

With the advent of the internet, financial, legal and business software ensured more and more roles became firmly linked to online services and made companies such as Microsoft millions.

1970s cassette recorder, cassette tape and floppy disc



This item replaced earlier even larger 'reel to reel' audio recorders. Cassette recorders like this Phillips one were used for various purposes, e.g. for voice recording the content of letters etc for audio typists to type up, for recording music from radio programmes and even for loading programs on to early computers or to save files from them. The floppy discs replaced the use of cassettes for

saving/loading data and programs onto/from computers.

Phones and Cameras

Cards provided depict developments in both camera and phone technology.

1950s black bakelite dial phone, 1970s Trimphone, 1980s 'brick' mobile and small 1990s mobile



Today, most of us has a mobile phone that can connect to the internet and email as well as make calls and take photos. However, when teenagers first began to enjoy relative freedom in the 1950s, most homes would not have had a telephone at all. Most calls were made from phone boxes, where coins had to be fed in to pay for the calls. The first telephones that were widely used in homes were black bakelite dial phones (although ours was probably an office phone). As the market grew, new styles and colours were introduced. The Trimphone (centre) is an innovation from the 1970s.



Home phones often caused arguments between parents and teenagers due to the phone being hogged for hours and the cost to the bill payer!

Later of course, mobile phones began to make an impact, although our early 'brick' mobile is not that mobile!

Letters home may yield a range of discarded mobiles, Ipods, hand-held electronic games, cameras etc, which children can use to create technology timelines like the telephone one pictured below (supplement with the sorting cards provided).



Kodak Box Brownie, Brownie Instamatic and Polaroid cameras, plus a spool of 35mm film



Like telephones, cameras have undergone many changes in recent times. Today, many fairly new cameras are consigned to the back of cupboards as most of us carry a camera with us on our smart phones.

TV, radio and music technology

Cards provided depict developments in each area of technology.

1980s LP (long play) record, one EP (extended play) record and one single record (aka a '45')



1960s transistor radio



1980s personal cassette player



Domestic technology

Cards provided depict developments in kettles, irons and cookers.

Domestic chores such as cleaning and cooking has seen its fair share of innovation too. It is worth a discussion about whether the move of more women into the workforce promoted the development of labour saving gadgets or if it was the other way round, with gadgets leaving women more spare time, which they increasingly filled by going out to

work instead. It is debateable whether either was first, but rather each drove the other. This is another area where many items are too large to include, but the images and timeline can be used too.

Late 19th/early 20th century slab iron and mid 20th Century electric iron,



Also Included: Five sets of sorting/timeline cards:

- Domestic technology
- Telephones and cameras
- Transport
- TV and Radio
- Writing and calculating

Activities to try with this collection

Object Timelines – obviously the objects lend themselves to forming timelines. These might be timelines of single types of objects ordered oldest to newest or they might include a wider range of objects (and pictures of objects).

Odd one out – from a mixed range of objects (use images too if you need a larger selection to pick from), can children pick out the item that is not of the same period as everything else?

Who owned what? – create a scenario – e.g. a teenager in the 1960s – can children suggest from the range of objects which items they may have owned or used? Teacher could even go into role as someone from a different period, can pupils reunite them with some of their things?

What do we use now? – looking at a single item to see if children know what might have replaced it today. For quite a lot of things - cameras, calculators, pens, typewriters or computers for writing letters - this will usually be a modern smart phone.

Picture Pelmanism (pairs game) - can children find pairs of objects from the mixed card sets placed upside down on tables – you may need to sort through the card sets to ensure you do not include three of the same item but rather have 2 or 4 pairs, telephones, cameras etc so that pairs can always be made.

Wider studies:

The **impact of changes on society** could be an area to explore at Key Stage 2. Here are some ideas that might be explored:

Did this technology improve people's lives at the time? If so, who and how or why/why not?

What were women's roles at the time?

- – did changes in information technology change women's roles in the workplace.
- Did changes in domestic technology help more women go out to work, or did less women stay at home to raise children and run the house drive the changes?
- Is the growth in transport (or the internet) necessarily a good thing?

For Key Stage 2 **extend the period over which you look at technology further into the past** – this might mean looking at as far back as to Neolithic, ancient civilizations, Greek, Roman and Saxon equivalents for items featured in the collection (as well as post 1066 periods like Medieval, Tudor, Victorian if wished etc) eg:

- How did they cook/get food?
- How did they spread ideas?
- How did they record events that happened?
- How did they travel long distances?
- What was entertainment like?

In all cases you should be questioning if everybody at any particular time did this/ how widespread it was/ was it limited to one particular class of people (i.e. the elite/men etc)