

**ACTION ACTIVITY****Social Studies—Technology in History**

Be sure to fill out  
your TechNotes  
and place them in  
your portfolio.

Foundations  
of Tech  
week of 9-8  
(catron)

**Real World Connection**

Advancements in technology have helped give us the quality of life we enjoy today. In this activity, you will organize and chart some of the events in history that have led to the present high level of technology.

**Design Brief**

Technology is sometimes divided into the following groups: communication, construction, manufacturing, transportation, energy/power, and bio-related technology. In this activity, you will sort events in history into one of the groups and make a timeline.

**Materials/Equipment**

- adding-machine paper (Tape 2 sheets Together - landscape)
- markers or pens
- meter stick (ruler)

**Procedure**

1. Work in groups of four. Measure and cut 1 meter of adding machine paper.
2. Use a meter stick to draw one line on the paper for each of the groups. Label each line.
3. Use a scale of 10 cm = 1000 years. Mark your timeline starting at 3500 B.C.
4. See the list on the next page. Chart each of the events on the appropriate line. Use circled numbers to represent each event.

**Evaluation**

1. How does your timeline show the rapid growth of technology? Explain.
2. During what period did most of the technological developments occur?
3. Was it sometimes hard to determine the group to which a technology belongs? Most technologies really belong to several groups. For example, transistors are used in communications devices, but making transistors involves manufacturing. What other "crossovers" can you identify?
4. **Going Beyond.** Do some research on one development in the timeline list. Share what you find in a short report.
5. **Going Beyond.** List your favorite technology inventions. Research their development and place them on the completed timeline.

- ① 3500 B.C. / Writing first used by Sumerians
- ② 3000 B.C. / Egyptians created first book
- ③ 1500 B.C. / Pulleys and simple machines used
- ④ A.D. 1045 / Movable type used in printing
- ⑤ A.D. 1450 / Printing press invented
- ⑥ A.D. 1712 / Piston steam engine developed
- ⑦ A.D. 1835 / Morse code/telegraph invented
- ⑧ A.D. 1876 / Telephone invented
- ⑨ A.D. 1892 / Reinforced concrete created
- ⑩ A.D. 1906 / Radio developed
- ⑪ A.D. 1926 / Television invented
- ⑫ A.D. 1926 / Liquid-fueled rocket developed
- ⑬ A.D. 1933 / FM broadcasting system introduced
- ⑭ A.D. 1946 / ENIAC computer developed
- ⑮ A.D. 1947 / Transistors invented
- ⑯ A.D. 1957 / Sputnik (first artificial satellite) put into space
- ⑰ A.D. 1960 / First laser operated Fig. A.
- ⑱ A.D. 1961 / First man flew in space
- ⑲ A.D. 1966 / First soft landing made on the moon by Luna 9
- ⑳ A.D. 1969 / Neil Armstrong became first man on the moon
- ㉑ A.D. 1977 / The Apple II started the personal computer industry
- ㉒ A.D. 1977 / Fiber-optic cable first used in commercial communication
- ㉓ A.D. 1977 / MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) first used by doctors
- ㉔ A.D. 1978 / The 5 1/4-inch disk became the standard format for storage of computer data
- ㉕ A.D. 1981 / Reusable spacecraft, U.S. Space Shuttle *Columbia*, made first flight
- ㉖ A.D. 1982 / Synthetic insulin, the first drug manufactured using recombinant DNA, was sold
- ㉗ A.D. 1985 / British Antarctic survey team discovered a hole in the ozone layer
- ㉘ A.D. 1986 / Karl Muller and Georg Bednorz discovered a ceramic material able to superconduct at 35° Kelvin, a new record for high-temperature transmission
- ㉙ A.D. 1988 / The U.S. Patent Office approved a patent for a genetically altered mouse
- ㉚ A.D. 1988 / A voice-operated typewriter recognized dictated words
- ㉛ A.D. 1988 / The world's first public maglev system went into operation in West Berlin
- ㉜ A.D. 1990 / A new line of biodegradable plastics was developed
- ㉝ A.D. 2000 / Scientists deciphered the genetic code of the fruit fly

**Fig. A**