



Social Studies Your Way Texts



Emily Starr
President/CEO

Hi! I know the challenges of elementary education. Fueled by my teaching experience and a desire to help fellow educators, I left the classroom in 2005 and StarrMatica Publishing Group was born. 16 years later, I continue to be a leader in the field of innovative classroom resources. I have a passion for creating STEAM teaching resources to support the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and to help teachers differentiate reading instruction.

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WHAT DO THESE PHOTOGRAPHS HAVE IN COMMON?

TOOLS OF TECHNOLOGY

By Elizabeth Baldwin



Washing machines made life easier for women who were used to washing every piece of clothing by hand or on a wash board.

Changes in Technology

100 years ago, life was very different than it is today. For one thing, you wouldn't be reading this on a computer! Technology has changed our lives in many ways. **Technology** is using what we know of science, math, and **engineering** to solve problems or invent tools. Technology builds on what we already know or experience to make our lives easier, faster, safer, and more fun.

You might think technology is a new idea. But humans have been using technology to invent tools for thousands of years. When people wonder about things, they come up with new ideas. They make a guess or **predict** how a tool can be better. Then they build on what they already know about that tool.

For example, people may have used sticks or rocks as tools to find food. As time went by, they invented tools like bows and arrows to make it easier to hunt. Then plows to make it easier to farm. Later, people invented different kinds of technology to be able to travel faster. People used horses and wagons instead of walking, and then cars replaced the horses and wagons. For a long time, people used oil or candles to light their homes. Later the lightbulb was invented. The photographs above show how mail used to be delivered by horseback, and then by train, and finally by truck and airplane.

100 Years Ago

People who lived about 100 years ago were just getting electricity into their homes. Some homes even had a telephone! Families enjoyed listening to the radio and seeing silent movies. The new Model T car was invented, and airplanes were just starting to take off. New inventions, like washing machines and vacuums made chores even easier.

50 Years Ago

People continued to guess and predict what would make life better, and then they created tools based on those predictions. 50 years ago people went to the library to do research. If you wanted to send a letter, you had to take it to the post office. If you made a phone call, the telephone was attached to the wall. Your grandparents may have listened to music on a record player. They may have watched television on a black and white T.V.



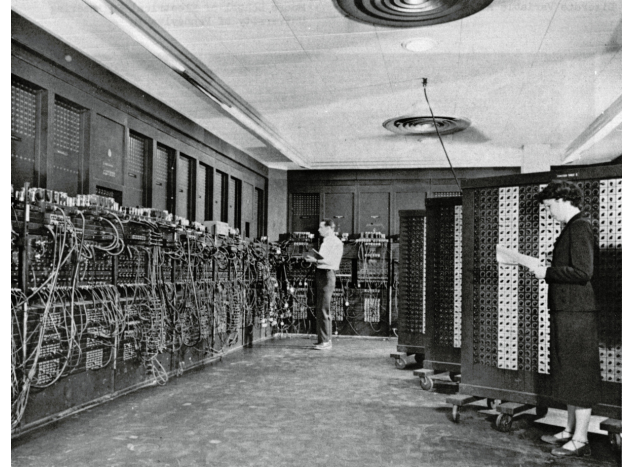
A boom box radio also played cassette tapes, the next advancement in music recording after records. Not all new technology is a replacement for old technology, however. Records are still being made today!



But the most important tool in technology was just starting to develop. This tool would affect how we communicate and how we get information. It is even a tool for listening to music. Can you predict what it is?

The Computer Age

If you thought of the computer, then you were right! The computer was created by putting many ideas together. It was based on the work of Alan Turing in the 1930's. Today's computer is the result of a computer created by Johan Mauchly and Presper Eckert in 1946. It took up the space of an entire room! Early computers were created to solve math problems. Today, computers are used for much more than math. The invention of the computer got people thinking. What is possible?



This is a photograph of the world's first computer called the ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator And Computer).

Without the computer, we would not have gone to the moon! Today's movies use effects that are only possible using computers. We can send a letter using electronic mail (email). We can even use our voice to talk to computers. Today, we use computer technology on our smartphones to send messages and to listen to music.

Technology has changed the way we communicate and find information. It has changed the way we play or pass the time. It has also changed the way we learn. Technology helps scientists develop medicine and gives teachers better tools. It makes space exploration possible and makes our homes safer. Technology makes our lives better, but it can also affect us in a different way.



What do you notice about these children playing a game? Can you predict how children will play in the future?

Technology Changes Jobs

What is common for you today was not common for your grandparents or even your parents! It will be the same for you as you get older. Jobs will change as technology changes. For example, when the telephone was first invented, many telephone operators were needed to connect calls to one another. That job no longer exists because phone technology changed.

People will always be trying to make jobs faster and safer using technology. Robots may be used more often in factories instead of people. Businesses may use driverless trucks to deliver goods to stores or packages to your front door! People who have those jobs, like truck drivers and factory workers, may need to find different work in the future.



The Ford Company is hoping this robot will have an advantage over other self-driving mail delivery vehicles. It can go upstairs to deliver packages right to your front door. Mail delivery technology is currently being tested in cities around the world.

Technology Changes Lives

The main character in the movie *Robots* had a saying, "See a need; fill a need!" When you have a problem, you try to solve it. In the future, technology will continue to be used to make our lives easier, faster, or safer. Technology may change the way you do your homework. It may change the way you do your chores. It may be hard to imagine life without a cell phone. But we may not use a phone in the same way in the future. After all, smart watches don't just tell the time! Technology might even change the way we travel through space! Humans are capable of great things. We can make things better by thinking about a problem and working it out with others. Can you predict what will make your life in the future easier, faster, safer, or more fun?



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By Elizabeth Baldwin



Washing machines made life easier for women who were used to washing every piece of clothing by hand or on a wash board.

Changes in Technology

Life was different 100 years ago. You couldn't read this on a computer. We didn't have them! **Technology** changes our lives. Technology uses science and math. It also uses **engineering**. Technology is used to solve problems. It is also used to invent new tools. Technology can make our lives easier. It can make us safer. It can also make our lives more fun.

Technology is not new. People have used technology for a long time. People have invented tools for thousands of years. People think about things. They get new ideas. They guess or **predict** how a tool can be better. Then they use what they know. For example, people used sticks or rocks as tools. They may have used them to find food. Then, they invented new tools. They made bows and arrows. These tools made it easier to hunt. Later, they invented plows. The plows made it easier to farm.

Technology also helps people travel faster. People used to walk. Next, they used horses and wagons. And then they used cars. For a long time, people used oil for light. They also used candles. Later, the lightbulb was invented. The photos above show how mail was carried. Mail was carried using horses. Then they used a train. Now mail is carried by truck and airplane.

100 Years Ago

Technology changes over time. 100 years ago, electricity was not in every home. And only some homes had a telephone! People listened to the radio. They watched silent movies. People drove a Model T car. And airplanes were starting to fly. Washing machines were invented. This new invention made chores easier.

50 Years Ago

People predicted what would make life better. They used those ideas to invent new tools. 50 years ago, people found information at the library. They put letters in the mail. People used a telephone on the wall. They used a record player. They watched a black and white T.V.



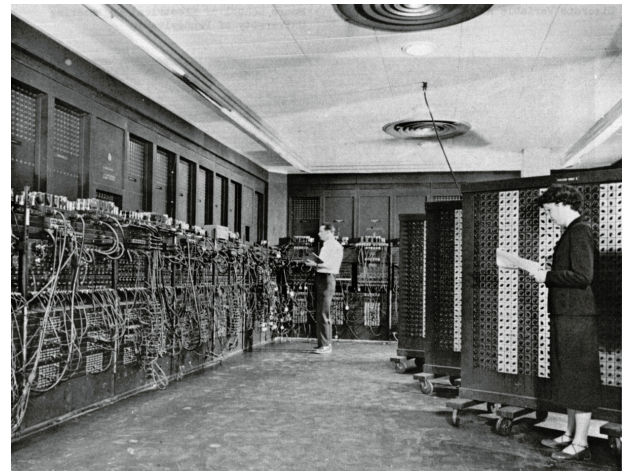
A boom box radio also played cassette tapes, the next advancement in music recording after records. Not all new technology is a replacement for old technology, however. Records are still being made today!



A new tool in technology was coming. This tool changed how we talk to each other. It changed how we get information. It is a tool for listening to music. It is a tool for watching movies. Can you predict what it is?

The Computer Age

Did you think of a computer? The computer was invented using many ideas. It was made using Alan Turing's ideas in the 1930's. Today's computer is made from a computer invented in 1946. It was built by Johan Mauchly and Presper Eckert. It filled a big room! The first computers solved math problems. Today, computers are used for more than math. Computers got people thinking. What is possible?



This is a photograph of the world's first computer called the ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator And Computer).

We couldn't do a lot of things without the computer. We would not have gone to the moon! Today's movies use computer technology. We can send a letter using email. We can even talk to computers. Today, our phones use computer technology. Telephones are smartphones. We can send messages. We can take pictures. We use smartphones to watch movies. We can also use smartphones to listen to music!

Computer technology has changed the way we talk to each other. It has changed the way we find information. It has changed the way we play. It has also changed the way we learn. Computer technology helps scientists make medicine. It gives teachers better tools. We can explore space with computer technology. It makes our homes safer. Technology makes our lives better. But it can also change our lives in a different way.



What do you notice about these children playing a game? Can you predict how children will play in the future?

Technology Changes Jobs

Technology changes over time. Technology that you use your grandparents did not. Your parents probably did not! It will be the same for you as you get older. Jobs change as technology changes. For example, we used to need telephone operators. Operators connected calls from one person to another. We don't need that job anymore. Phone technology changed.

People use technology to make jobs faster. They also use it to make jobs safer. Robots may be used in factories instead of people. Businesses may use trucks that drive themselves. Robots may carry mail to your door! Truck drivers may need to find other work. And factory workers may need to find different jobs.



The Ford Company is hoping this robot will have an advantage over other self-driving mail delivery vehicles. It can go upstairs to deliver packages right to your front door. Mail delivery technology is currently being tested in cities around the world.

Technology Changes Lives

Technology is used to solve problems. Technology makes our lives easier, faster, or safer. Technology changes the way we live. Technology will probably change the way you do your homework. It may change the way you do your chores. It may be hard to think about life without a smartphone. But we may not use a smartphone in the future. After all, smart watches don't just tell the time! People have great ideas. We can think about problems. And then we can work it out with others. Can you predict what will make your life easier or faster? Can you predict what will make it safer? Can you predict how technology can make your life more fun?



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