

Science and Technology

Discoveries and inventions

What technological developments and scientific discoveries have there been in the last hundred years?

In small groups, brainstorm discoveries/inventions and the advances that have resulted from them. Agree on a list of the top ten most significant discoveries and inventions. Here are some suggestions.

the wheel,	electricity,	the light bulb,	vaccinations,	nuclear fission,
the silicon chip,	the internal combustion engine,	printing,	the alphabet	

What would happen if there was suddenly no electricity in the world?

Science fact or fiction?

Has anybody in the class read a good science fiction book, e.g. *Brave New World* or *Fahrenheit 451*? Tell us about the kind of future society depicted in the book you read. Has any of it already come true?

In small groups, discuss the ways technology can help society in the future, and the ways it can also threaten society.

Alternative science

In groups, discuss the evidence for these phenomena, and your opinions about them.

ESP (extra sensory perception), palmistry, life after death, UFOs, astrology, holistic medicine

Information technology

- What are the greatest changes brought about by computers? Do you think there will ever be intelligent computers, i.e. computers that can learn?

In groups, list the advantages and disadvantages of modern technologies, e.g. *International telephone calls are very cheap. Working on computers all day is bad for your health.*

- In groups, imagine a world without computers. How would it affect your day-to-day life? Make a list of five inconveniences, e.g. *I'd have to go to the library to get information rather than look on the internet.*

Project

Use the internet to find out about one of these people and their contribution to science. In the next lesson, exchange information with another student.

Guglielmo Marconi,	Charles Babbage,	Marie Curie,	Elisha Otis,	Louis Pasteur,
William Caxton,	Thomas Edison,	Jean Foucault,	Enrico Fermi,	Albert Einstein