



A WORLD WITHOUT CELL PHONES

Learning Objectives: The students will...

1. Describe how technology has changed communication.
2. Explain how the telephone has affected our daily lives.
3. Place events in chronological order.
4. Enhance their critical thinking skills by obtaining information from pictures.

TEKS: K.12A-C, K.13A&B, K.14C&D. 1.15A&B, 1.16A&B, 1.17C&D, 2.13A, 2.15A&B, 2.16E&F

Materials Needed: Picture of the first telephone, sets of the Telephone Timeline Cards for each group, copies of the Timeline for each group.

Vocabulary: communicate, future, invented, patent, technology

Teaching Strategy:

1. Introduce the lesson by displaying a visual of the first telephone. Do not tell students the name of the object that is pictured. Ask students to brainstorm what they think the item is and how it works.
2. Reveal to students that the object is the first telephone. Explain that Alexander Graham Bell invented this machine, which could send voice sounds electrically. On March 10, 1876, Bell spoke through this machine to talk to his assistant, Thomas Watson. Bell said, "Mr. Watson—come here—I want to speak to you." (Tell students that an interesting fact is that two people really invented the telephone at the same time: Alexander Graham Bell and Elisha Gray. Unfortunately, Miss Gray filed her application for a patent two hours after Bell did, so Alexander Graham Bell was given credit for inventing the telephone.)
3. Describe what America was like during the 1870s before the invention of the telephone. Include such things as:
 - a. Transportation (horses, trains, ships)
 - b. Communication (telegraph, letters, newspapers; no radios or television, no computers)
 - c. Homes (many just getting electricity and indoor plumbing)
 - d. Entertainment (no movie theatres, video games, or internet)
4. Ask students to share what they think life would be like without telephones. Have them explain specific ways their lives would change.
5. Tell students that the telephone has changed greatly in appearance and function over the last 130+ years. Divide students into groups of 3 or 4. Give each group a set of Telephone Timeline Cards. Instruct groups to put the timeline cards in chronological order. Students may use the Timeline attached to this lesson for reference, if needed.
6. Verify the correct sequence of the Telephone Timeline Cards. Have students compare and contrast how the telephone has changed over time by analyzing the timeline pictures and answering the following questions:
 - a. How did the phone change from 1876 to 1879? How do you think the caller made a phone call using this telephone?
 - b. Compare the 1879 telephone to the 1892 telephone. How did the phones change?
 - c. What special features did the 1907 telephone have? (wall phone with crank)
 - d. Compare the telephones made in 1910 and 1919. How are they alike? How are they different?

- e. What changes were made in the 1937 telephone compared to the phone from 1919?
 - f. In 1954 phones came in colors other than black. Do you think they were popular? Why or why not?
 - g. The 1964 telephone had a very special feature. What was it? What would be the advantage of having push buttons on a phone?
 - h. Compare the 1964 telephone to the 1992 phone. How are they alike? How are they different?
 - i. Now most people have cell phones. What other things do cell phones do that phones from the past didn't do? What differences do cell phones make in the lives of the members of your family today?
7. Conclude the lesson by having students complete the following open-ended sentence stem:
"The invention of the telephone changed the way people communicate because"

Extension for Gifted/Talented:

Have students draw a picture of what they think telephones or cell phones will look like in the future. Students should label the picture to explain the special features of the phone.

WHAT IS THIS?



TELEPHONE TIMELINE CARDS



1876



1879



1885



1892



1907



1910



1919



1937



1954



1964



1992



2006



Today

TIMELINE



1876 1879 1885 1892 1907 1910 1919 1937 1954 1964 1992 2006 Now