Create a timeline of historic inventions

Student guide A

In this activity, you will research famous technological inventions from ancient times to the present and record the information in a Microsoft Office Excel timeline.

## Step 1 Research

## Software: Microsoft Word

## What to do: Plan your timeline

Using the internet, you will research the history of technological inventions from ancient times all the way to the present. Be sure to consult several different resources over the internet when making your list because each list will offer only some of the significant inventions around the world. You will select which inventions to include and explain why you chose them. Useful sites may include the following:

* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_technological_discoveries>
* [http://www.wired.com/gadgetlab/2013/01/the-decades-that-invented-the-future-part-10-1991-2000/](http://www.wired.com/gadgetlab/2013/01/the-decades-that-invented-the-future-part-10-1991-2000/%20) -This website only has the 20th century but it still contains plenty of information.
* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_technology>
* <http://inventors.about.com/od/timelines/Timelines_of_Invention_and_Technology.htm> -On this site you can click the link “Timeline of Inventions” (or any other link if you choose to do so) which will take you to more links where you can choose different centuries and see what was invented in that century.
* There are plenty of other websites to use if you Google “History of Technology”, “History of Inventions”, or anything similar to that.

On a Microsoft Office Word file, make a list of 30 inventions that you want to include in your timeline. Pick any invention your group finds interesting and wants to learn more about. Be sure to include all sorts of different types of inventions from all stages of history and from all parts of the world. For example, don’t limit your list to the 20th century or Western cultures. Look for technology that was invented in China or Africa in the Middle Ages or maybe Native American inventions pre-Columbus. Make notes about:

* Be sure to list the inventions you have selected in chronological order.
* For each invention on your list, find and include the following information:
* Date or dates the technology was invented
* Name of person who invented it
* Where it was invented
* Identify what this invention is and how this invention affected the world and revolutionized how people do things. Essentially, how did people do things before this technology was invented and how do people do those things now. (3-5 sentences)
* Finally, any other information that is important or interesting.

IMPORTANT: Notice there is no specific format I am looking for on your Microsoft Word document which will contain all this information. However, I am expecting you to use your knowledge of Word to keep the document organized and easy to read when I am grading it. Make sure you have you and your partners name and a title on the document. Below are a couple examples of how you could organize it:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Invention | Date | Inventor/Where/Affect/Interesting Information |
| Printing Press | 1439 | Johannes Gutenberg invented the first printing press. Printing press today allows us to print newspaper to spread news, print books for learning and or reading for fun, and so much more without the printing press it would be much harder to print things. |

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