

Tools of Technology
by Elizabeth Baldwin



What do these photographs have in common?

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!



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

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.



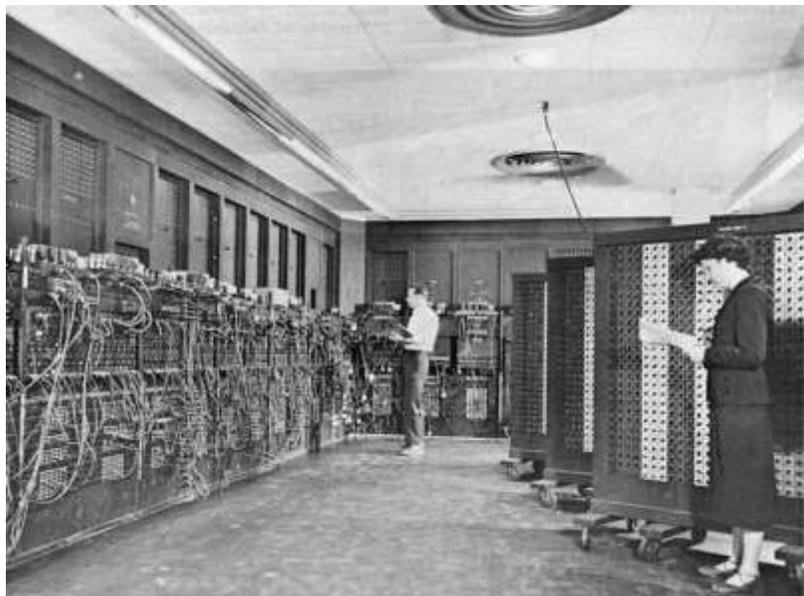
A boom box radio also played cassette tapes, the next advancement in music recording after records. Not all new technology is a replacement for old technology, however. Records are still being made today!



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?