

**Making an Innovation Timeline**

Innovation is a result of individual actions and collective advances in science and engineering to create new technology (or tools) that addresses socials needs and wants. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office refers to this process as “Innovation.” This process is “a series of steps that begins with human imagination and creativity and results in the creation of something of value for society to enjoy. The creation of intellectual property takes vision, perseverance, and often involves people from different backgrounds and expertise collaborating in order to transform an idea into something that is real and tangible.” These changes are part of the innovation process that occurs over time. To explore more about the interconnections between innovations, technology, science, engineering, and social needs we will be creating an “Innovation Timeline” of an item found in your house.

A good item for an **Innovation Timeline** has value to you, your family, and friends. It is something people interact with and use regularly. An item could be a car or bus (a tool for transportation), a stove or mixer (a tool for cooking), or even google maps (a digital tool for navigation). Once you have selected a household item complete the following.

1. Document how you and your friends and/or family interact with that tool and why they value it.
2. Draw a picture of the item and include what your friends/family said about it.
3. Consider the Innovation Timeline of the tool by drawing or collecting previous images of the tool and reflecting on how that piece of technology changed over time.
4. You will need to consider how the tool/item is now, how it may have been in the recent past (e.g. 25 years ago, and 50+ years ago). How it may have it changed? Did innovation occur?
5. Create your timeline after you have collected the above information.

**Tips for Success:**

1. Ask your friends/family why they use it and how they have used something like it in the past (e.g. radio to play music, but now I use ------). Ask them what they “think people used” to do that in the past? Show interest and keep them talking.
2. If you get “stuck” on your Timeline, look at the item you selected and think about: Who made it? What materials is it made out of? Can you search for it on the internet and find out more?
3. It is OK to use drawings, images, pictures, or anything else you choose to represent your tool and why you and your friends/family value it.

**Innovation Timeline**

Name and description of my item

**Part 1 – Talking about your household item**

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| **1) I use this item to** |
|  |
| **If I did not have this item, I would have to do instead.** |

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| **2) I talked to about my item and they said they used it to** |
|  |
| **If they did not have this item, they would have to do instead.** |

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| **3) The person I talked to said that they (or other people) may have used something like** |
| **to do in the past because** |
| **.** |

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| **4) The person I talked to said they “valued” the item because** |
| **.** |
| **They also said that other people may value the item too because (THINK BIG!)** |
| **.** |

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| **5) What is something you want to share with a classmate about your household item?** |
| **.** |
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**Part 2 – Making the Timeline**

