

Historical Review of Wireless Technology

Purpose: The objective of this activity is to allow the student to see the historical significance that wireless technology has played in our world and our culture.

Overview:

In London, the *Times* compared the laying of the [telegraph] cable with the discovery of the New World: “Since the discovery of Columbus, nothing has been done in any degree comparable to the vast enlargement which has thus been given the sphere of human activity.” Others stated, “It is impossible that old prejudices and hostilities should longer exist, while such an instrument has been created for the exchange of thought between all the nations of the earth.”¹

The students have seen how wireless technology impacts their daily lives and they have also studied career opportunities available that use wireless technology. The question now to be answered is, “how and why did we get to where we are today?” Wireless technology grew out of a need for faster, more distant, more capable, and more reliable communication for our culture to grow and thrive. Communication will be defined in the next unit as the ability to influence behavior by transferring meaning and information through recognized symbols sent through a medium from sender to receiver. In other words, humans influence their environment through communication. Power and influence goes to the most effective communicator. If good communication is power and influence, we exercise that power and influence through communication..wireless technology is one way we communicate. The study of the evolution of wireless technology is not only the study of science and invention but also the study of power, influence, and control. This combination makes for some very interesting reading.

Time: One class period to discuss with the students why research of the history of wireless technology is important and discuss requirements of the book report. Two class periods for in-class book reports on the topics and literary works chosen by the individual students.

Skills Required:

- Reading
- Writing
- Public speaking
- Library research
- Critical thinking
- Empathy

Materials and Tools:

Library text materials

Internet

Preparation: The teacher should spend some class time developing the reason why this assignment is important because it will provide: 1. an insight into the technical development of the wireless technology chosen by the student to study and 2. an insight into the social and cultural context in which the technology developed. Coordination with the school's history and social studies departments may prove to be helpful in putting the book review in a historical perspective.

Background:

¹*The Victorian Internet*, 1998, Walker Publishing Company, Inc. , pages 82-83.

What to do and how to do it:

Assign students to choose a book to review from a list reserved in the local or school library. Allow other books to be reviewed by students upon request and approval of the teacher. The books reviewed can be either fiction or non-fiction.

Students read the book chosen and write a reflective summary report of the book.

Students present orally the contents of their reflective summary to the rest of the class.

After all reports are presented, provide an in class writing assignment opportunity where the students write a reflective essay on common themes, strands, or concepts that resulted from the synthesis of all the in-class reports.

Data Analysis:

Did the students grasp the significance that wireless technology plays in the development of societies and social order?

Activity questions:

1. What events were occurring at the time of the invention of the technology and how did those events influence the development of the technology?
2. How did the technology change world events at the time and in the future?
3. Did the development of the technology lead to the development of other technologies?
4. Was the development of the technology a good thing or a bad thing?
5. Speculate what the world would be like if the technology had not been developed.

6. Speculate what would have happened had the technology been developed earlier or later than it was.
7. Speculate what would have happened had the technology been developed in a different country or under a different political situation.

Adaptations for special needs: There should be no need to modify this activity to accommodate for special needs.