

Pathfinders - Mobile Mystery

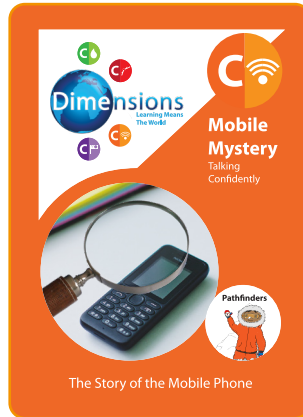
What

I

Should

Know

Dimensions
CURRICULUM



Overview

"Mobile Mystery" is a thematic unit all about the development of telecommunication. There is a key subject focus on history, through which the pupils will learn about early methods of communication, leading to the invention of the telephone and the mobile phone. Pupils will use working scientifically skills to experiment with simple cup and string telephones, as well as exploring modern mobile phone features.

What?

What is a telegraph?

- A telegraph is a machine that uses codes through electrical signals to send messages that are printed out.

What is a telephone?

- A telephone uses the human voice. It uses the vibrations in the human voice to send signals down a wire to a receiver.



Who?

Who invented the telephone?

- A Scottish inventor, Alexander Graham Bell was the first person to patent his idea of the telephone in 1876.

Who developed the first mobile phone?

- The first mobile phone was invented by Motorola in 1973, just under one hundred years after Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated his telephone. Dr Martin Cooper made the first phone call.

Why?

Why did early telephones need a telephone exchange?

- A telephone exchange was run by telephone operators. Every phone line had a telephone number but you couldn't always call directly. The operator was there to connect you to the correct line, especially if the caller lived far away from the receiver.

What?

What is a patent?

- A patent gives an inventor the right to stop other people from making, using or selling their idea or invention for a certain period of time.
- Alexander Graham Bell had two patents for his telephone invention. They lasted from 1876 until 1894.

How?

How was information shared in the past?

- People told stories and spread information by sending running messengers, ringing church bells, sending smoke signals, lighting beacons, sending letters and telling stories around the fire.
- The invention of the telephone allowed people to call each other over long distances.

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How to...

...make your own podcast

- Many people listen to podcasts on their phones today. Choose a family member to interview about their first mobile phone. Think of questions that encourage them to talk about its features, when they got it and why.



Concept Flow

- To know about how information was shared in the past
- To know who Alexander Graham Bell was
- To know how early telephones developed
- To know how telephones have changed and what we use them for today



Vocabulary

Communication: sending and receiving information

Invent: to create or design something new

iPhone: a type of smartphone designed by Steve Jobs and his company, Apple

Letter: a written communication sent by post

Mobile Phone: a phone that does not need wires to make a call. Calls are connected by satellite.

Operator: someone who works at a telephone exchange and connects phone calls

Patent: a government grant that gives someone the right to make, use, or sell an invention

Podcast: an audio recording downloaded from the internet, usually featuring conversations on a topic

Ringtone: a melody played on a phone to alert someone to a call

Satellite: a spacecraft sent into space to send and receive information

Semaphore: a system of sending messages through flag signals

Telephone exchange: an old system used to connect telephone calls

Wired telephone: a telephone that uses wires to connect telephone calls. In the past, they were connected to the telephone exchange. They are sometimes called a 'landline'.