

## Technology Historical Timeline: Human Innovation and the Earth's Resources

The Technology Historical Timeline is a great tool to use to give your students historical context for what they are learning and to show them how any single scientific discovery or understanding is built from all the discoveries and understandings that came before. In many cases, scientific discoveries only thrived if there was a community need they helped to solve.

The following worksheets contain a couple versions of the timeline you can use with your class.

- The completed timeline is one we think links critical events in the history of human health. As an activity you could have your students pick their top three events from the timeline that then justify why they thought they were the most important.
- You could have your students pick one event on the timeline (e.g., the industrial revolution) and create another timeline that includes that invention. Some examples could be:
  - How have geology and our understanding of the Earth's resources below ground have influenced innovation?
  - How have fabrics evolved to reflect the uniqueness of the communities that design them?
- You could have your students pick one event on the timeline to research further and share details with the class. Be sure to have them provide an opinion of why they believe that event was included on the timeline.
- You could take the blank timeline and have the students pick a different technology from which to create their own timeline.
- You could take the dateless descriptions and have the students try to put them in chronological order. Ask them to justify their order.
- Most online technology historical timelines have a paragraph associated with each event. As a class you could pick a different technology historical timeline (these can be found online by googling "X historical timeline") and have the students use the blank timeline to summarize and write down critical events.

**~5000 BCE**  
Humans start using woven fabrics out of flax, cotton, and animal hair.

**200 BCE–200 CE**  
Communities in the Middle East, Asia, and China start using fossil fuels to heat their homes and purify water.

**~1500 CE**  
Europeans bring natural rubber samples back from exploration in South America.

**~1750 CE**  
With the Industrial Revolution coal and oil overtake water as the main source of energy. New inventions mean that fabric can be made in much larger amounts.

**~1850–1920 CE**  
Chemists and engineers make the “man-made,” or synthetic, fibers that make fabrics like nylon or polyester. They also start making the synthetic plastics.

**~1952 CE**  
For five days in December unusual weather in London (cold and no wind) caused the air pollution to create a large black cloud over the city. As a result many people died.










**1990 CE**  
The US Pollution Prevention Act was passed. This law focused industry, government, and public attention on reducing the amount of pollution by making changes in manufacturing and raw materials.

**1998 CE**  
Paul Anastas and John C. Warner co-author the book, *Green Chemistry: Theory and Practice*. This book outlines the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry and why they are important.

**2005 CE**  
Yves Chauvin, Robert H. Grubbs, and Richard R. Schrock win the Noble prize in chemistry for figuring out a more environmentally friendly way to make many important chemicals.

**20?? CE**  
What will you invent?

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What will you invent?

<p>Europeans bring natural rubber samples back from exploration in South America.</p> 	<p>For five days in December unusual weather in London (cold and no wind) caused the air pollution to create a large black cloud over the city. As a result many people died.</p> 	<p>Paul Anastas and John C. Warner co-author the book, <i>Green Chemistry: Theory and Practice</i>. This book outlines the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry and why they are important.</p> 
<p>Yves Chauvin, Robert H. Grubbs, and Richard R. Schrock win the Noble prize in chemistry for figuring out a more environmentally friendly way to make many important chemicals.</p> 	<p>Humans start using woven fabrics out of flax, cotton, and animal hair</p> 	<p>The US Pollution Prevention Act was passed. This law focused industry, government, and public attention on reducing the amount of pollution by making changes in manufacturing and raw materials.</p> 
<p>With the Industrial Revolution coal and oil overtake water as the main source of energy. New inventions mean that fabric can be made in much larger amounts.</p> 	<p>Chemists and engineers make the "man-made," or synthetic, fibers that make fabrics like nylon or polyester. They also start making the synthetic plastics.</p> 	<p>Communities in the Middle East, Asia, and China start using fossil fuels to heat their homes and purify water.</p> 


Put the historical events in the order you think they belong and justify your order.

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