

The 1900s in My House

Week 31 • Thursday • The 1900s in My House

Reading Time

Look around your home. Almost everything with a plug, a screen, or a motor comes from the 1900s or grew out of a 1900s invention!

Your refrigerator, washing machine, and lights all use electricity that came to homes in the early 1900s. Your TV comes from 1920s inventions. Even your family's phone is the great-great-grandchild of old telephones with cords and dials.

Grown-ups in your family remember some of these changes. Maybe a grandparent remembers their family's first TV or first computer! Talking to older family members is like opening a living history book. Today, you will do exactly that.

Reading Questions

1. What clues show an invention came from the 1900s?

2. What did old telephones have that yours does not?

3. Why is talking to older family members like a living history book?

Invention Hunt!

Walk through your home like a history detective. Find and list four things that use electricity or a motor. Beside each one, write what people used BEFORE it was invented (ask a grown-up if you need help!).

Invention I found	What people used before
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Living History Interview

Interview a grandparent, parent, or other grown-up. Ask them these questions and write their answers.

Question	Their answer
What invention do you remember getting for the first time?	
What did you do for fun before that invention?	
What invention changed your life the most?	
What invention do you think I will see invented?	

Think About It

1. What surprised you most from your interview?

Fill in the Blanks

electricity 1900s telephones history remember detective

1. Most home machines use _____.
2. Many inventions came from the _____.
3. Old _____ had cords and dials.
4. Older family members are like a living _____ book.
5. Grown-ups _____ when inventions were new.
6. Today you were a history _____.

Old Way or New Way?

Draw a line or write OLD or NEW for each item.

Item	OLD or NEW
Icebox with a block of ice	
Refrigerator with a freezer	
Washing clothes in a tub by hand	
Washing machine	
Candles and oil lamps	
Electric lights	

Review

I learned...	Circle one
How 1900s inventions fill my home	YES / NOT YET
I completed an invention hunt	YES / NOT YET
I interviewed a grown-up about inventions	YES / NOT YET