

Let's Talk About Telephone History!

Did you know that the telephone was invented long ago, in the year 1876, by a person named Alexander Graham Bell? It's an important invention because it helps many people talk to others far from them each day.

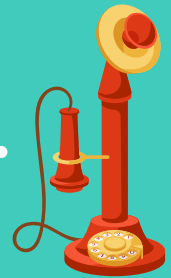
Over the years, inventors and phone designers have worked to make phones better – and more fun to use! Look at the timeline and answer the questions on the next page. You can turn back to review the pictures.

TELEPHONE TIMELINE

1920s-Today

1920s - 1930s

Candlestick Phone – This telephone had a mouthpiece mounted on the stand, and a handset you would hold to your ear to hear.



1930s - 1960s

Rotary Desk Phone – To make a call on this landline, you put your finger in the right number and turn the dial all around.



1960s - 1980s

Corded Wall Phone – Instead of turning a dial, you press buttons to make calls, like phones we use today. This one is mounted on the wall.



Early 2000s

Flip Phone – This phone had a small screen. When using it, you would flip it open to reveal the keypad and the screen.



2010s - Today

Smartphone – This phone can do lots of things besides making calls. You can take pictures, play games, and even surf the internet.



1930s to today,
but becoming rare

Payphone – This phone is found in public places. You use it by putting coins in a slot. People used it when they didn't have their own phone with them.



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Answer the questions below. Remember, you can return to the previous page to look at the pictures of the telephone timeline. Write your answer on the lines below each question.

1. Which of the pictured telephones have you seen in person or used before? What makes a phone hard to use?

2. Imagine what it was like when there were only landline phones. How would that life be different from yours today where people have cellphones?

3. How do you think having mobile phones without cords changed things for people?

4. Why do you think there are fewer payphones now?

BONUS: Find a person who lived in the 1990s or earlier. Interview them about how they used payphones. Ask them to tell you about a time when they couldn't find a payphone when they needed one. How might their situation be different today?