



Shoot for the Stars! 

Communication innovations and inventions – overcoming distance

What are some of the inventions which have enabled human beings to communicate easily beyond shouting distances?

The following ideas will help students find out more about the technologies behind the ways people have communicated over distance.

The NBN is about to launch two new satellites from 2015. The satellite service will play a critical role in helping Australians to be on a level playing field – it is designed to provide everyone in the bush with access to high-speed broadband, and this will help students in rural and remote Australia overcome distances in their access to learning resources.

If one of your students wins the illustration competition featured [here](#), your school will get to work with NBN Co to name one of the satellites, so encourage your students to enter the competition.

1. The classic tin can telephone

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/projects/stringphone.html>

2. Make a telescope

<http://www.csiro.au/Portals/Education/SbE-Activity-Archive.aspx>

Then search under 6. Earth and Space activities

3. Morse code

<http://www.teachertube.com/video/morse-code-136345>

Watch the clip.

What every day object could you use to recreate Morse code?

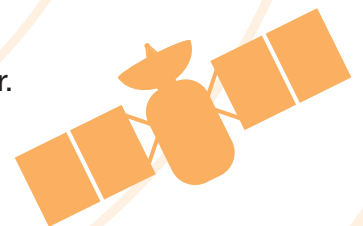
In pairs, construct and digitally record a short message for each other.

Can you work out what your friend is telling you?

4. Run your own radio hour

Record a special broadcast which talks about the recording the launch of the rocket and NBN satellite! You'll need to plan the "clock" – a radio term for the structure (page 2 of the pdf).

http://www.schoolradio.com/uploads/chronicler/document/document/3/creating_a_jingle_clock.pdf



5. The communication technology hall of fame.

<http://www.slideshare.net/rajb/technology-and-communications-for-kids>

Select one of the following developments in communication – the printing press, telegraph, printing press, radio, television, satellite, fiber-optics, internet, mobile, social media.

Who are the significant inventors/innovators in communication media?

Think about:

- *When is the earliest recorded mention in History?*
- *Is there one person in particular whose name is associated with this communication innovation?*
- *Was it a new invention or a better version of an existing artefact?*
- *Was it in response to a problem that the inventor perceived?*
- *How does it work?*
- *How did it change the way people lived and communicated?*
- *How long did it take to become part of everyday life?*



Present the information in Slideshare, Animoto, Prezi or other multimedia platforms.

As follow up, create a class timeline of each communication innovation from the past to the present day.

Sources

The classic tin can telephone

<http://www.csiro.au/helix/sciencemail/activities/TinPhone.html>

Make a telescope

<http://www.csiro.au/Portals/Education/SbE-Activity-Archive.aspx> Then search under 6. Earth and Space activities.

CSIRO Science by Email, a free online newsletter for students, teachers and anyone with an interest in science, produced in partnership with Lloyd's Register Foundation. Lloyd's Register Foundation invests in science, engineering and technology for public benefit, worldwide.

Morse code – Teacher Tube, an educational video community for teachers, students and parents,

<http://www.teachertube.com/video/morse-code-136345>

School Radio – Making a Clock, planning a radio show sequence - free resources from the UK provider of broadcast radio technology for education

http://www.schoolradio.com/uploads/chronicler/document/document/3/creating_a_jingle_clock.pdf

Communication Hall of Fame – Raj Badarinath (2009, June 8) Slideshare, Technology and Communications for Exceptional Kids, 4000 years in 40 minutes!!

<http://www.slideshare.net/rajb/technology-and-communications-for-kids>

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