

Some examples from *THE TIMETABLES OF TECHNOLOGY*TM

ESSAYS

The First Navigators
Irrigation and the Rise of Civilization
Inventing Writing and the Alphabet
Early Surgery
The Railroad System
Computers: From Analog to Digital
Nuclear Power
The Laser

BIOGRAPHIES

Archimedes
Leonardo da Vinci
Eli Whitney
Thomas Alva Edison
George Washington Carver
Alan Mathison Turing
Grace Murray Hopper
Steven P. Jobs

SAMPLE ENTRIES

30,000 BC

The earliest known unequivocally identified musical instruments are flutes and whistles made from bird or bear bones or from reindeer antlers that date from 28,000 BC forward; the instruments have been found from France deep into central Europe and the Russian Plain

25,000

People in what is now Poland are the first to use the boomerang, about 13,000 years before the first Australian boomerang; the early Polish boomerang is made from mammoth tusk

20,000

Bone and antler needles are made in France and Spain, suggesting that clothing sewn together with threads of sinew or plant material may have come into use

3700

The oldest known use of bronze is a rod found in the Egyptian pyramid of Meduin and probably deposited about this time

70 CE

Roman Emperor Vespasian orders the building of the Colosseum in Rome; at about 180 m (600 ft) long and 50 m (175 ft) high, it will remain the largest amphitheater in the world until the construction of the Yale Bowl in 1914

132

Zhang Heng invents the first seismograph, a device that indicates the direction of an earthquake by dropping a ball from the mouth of a bronze dragon into the mouth of a bronze frog

200

The Maya center at Tikal, built about this time, has shrines at the peaks of pyramids that are roofed with corbel arches, the only arches of any kind known in the Americas

1200-1209

Houses with chimneys become common, although chimneys had been in use earlier for bakers' ovens and for smelting

1386

The earliest built mechanical clock that survives today is a device in Salisbury Cathedral in England; the clock does not tell time with hands, but sounds the hour and indicates astronomical events

1502

Leonardo da Vinci designs a windmill with a revolving turret, and may have built one at Cesena (in Italy); about 50 years earlier windmills with turrets were in use by the Dutch

1732

Steam engines are used for rotary motion by pumping water into a tank that feeds a waterwheel

1775

David Bushnell (b Saybrook CT, 1742?) invents a hand-operated, one-man submarine called the American Turtle; it is the first device to employ the propeller for motive power in water, using separate propellers for horizontal and vertical movements

1783

The brothers Joseph-Michael and Jacques-Etienne Montgolfier demonstrate the hot-air balloon at Annonay, France, on June 5

1838

Louis-Jacques M. J. M. Daguerre announces in Paris on Aug 10 his process for making daguerreotypes, silver images on copper plates; these are popular before photographs become common

1844

Horace Wells (b Hartford CT) is the first to use nitrous oxide as an anesthetic in dentistry

1882

The largest apartment complex yet is built in New York City; it is the first to be larger than Pueblo Bonito, built by the Anasazi of western North America around 1100

1884

Nikola Tesla (b Smiljan, Yugoslavia) invents the electric alternator, an electric generator that produces alternating current

1913

Edouard Belin invents the portable facsimile machine (fax), which he calls the Belinograph, but which journalists of the time know as the Belino; capable of using ordinary telephone lines, it quickly replaces the fax machine of Arthur Korn

1932

Radio Corporation of America (RCA) demonstrates a television receiver with a cathode-ray picture tube, making experimental broadcasts from the Empire State Building in New York City

1935

The first combine that can be operated by a single person is introduced in the US

1970

The floppy disk is introduced for storing data used by computers

1983

The Kurzweil company introduces a portable, digital music keyboard that can store the sounds of 30 different musical instruments

1993

Fujitsu in Japan announces manufacture of a 256-megabit memory chip

