



Inventions

From the Past

Reading Booklet

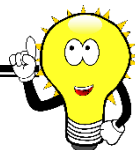


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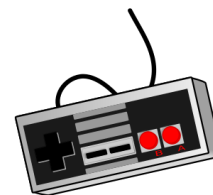
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Nintendo



The Nintendo NES (Nintendo Entertainment System) was invented in Japan in 1985 by Hiroshi Yamauchi.

The NES was a grey, black and red device that needed to be connected to the wall and to a TV set to work. The gamepads were connected to the console by a wire. They were extremely simple too (only 4 buttons and a directional pad). Only two players could play simultaneously. For each game, you needed to have a different cartridge. It was impossible to play games online with this video game console!

The most popular games at that time were Super Mario Bros. and Donkey Kong.

An interesting fact is that when you played for too long, the image on the TV would become more and more blurry. So, people had to stop their game, take out the cartridge and blow inside to help the cartridge cool down to make the image better!



Rotary Phone



The rotary phone was invented in United States by Almon Brown Strowger in 1892.

The rotary phone was a rectangular device with a telephone standing at the top of it. The telephone was connected to the device by a cord that looked like a pig's tail. The rotary phone needed to be connected to the wall.

It was impossible to move around while talking on this phone! To call someone, people first had to pick up the phone. Next, they had to put their finger in the hole of the number they needed and rotate the finger wheel clockwise to the piece of metal. After, they had to let go of the finger wheel and wait for it to return to its initial position. Then, they had to repeat those steps to dial the whole telephone number. Finally, the telephone would ring and if the people were at home, the conversation could begin. But if people were absent, you could not leave a message and people would never know that you have called!





Walkman



The walkman was invented in 1979 in Japan by Nobutoshi Kiraha.

The walkman was a portable cassette-tape player that worked with batteries. People needed a pair of headphones and a cassette to listen to their favourite songs. The walkman was equipped with buttons that people would press to play, pause, stop, rewind, fast forward or eject the cassette.

The cassette was recorded on both sides. There were a side A and a side B. So, if people wanted to listen to the side B, they had to open the walkman and change the side of their cassette. They could choose cassettes of different lengths (generally 60 or 90 minutes).

If people wanted to listen to a specific song, they had to find it by trial and error pushing play and stop!



Colour Television



The first colour television was invented by John Logie Baird in England in 1926.

In Canada, the first test transmissions began in 1966. The first TV channels to use colour broadcasts were CBC, SRC and CTV. And only in 1977, all Canadian TV channels were in colour.

To use this television, people did not have a remote control. They had to use the buttons that were on the TV set to turn on and off the TV, to change the channels and to raise or lower the volume.

Some interesting facts are that people needed to buy the TV guide to know the TV schedule. Also, it was impossible to watch something else than what was on!

