

Social Studies Theme: Change

Lesson: *Technology*

Grade Level: 1-4

Overview: Technology and the computer industry have helped the United States to grow after World War II and have affected our lives in many ways.

Approximate Duration: one class period

National Social Studies Standards: [NSS-EC.K-4.15](http://www.educationworld.com/standards/national/soc_sci/economics/k_4.shtml) Growth
http://www.educationworld.com/standards/national/soc_sci/economics/k_4.shtml

Objective: Students will be able to understand the importance of computers and technology and its growth during the World War II period.

Procedure:

- Read to students the story of the start of computers.
- Explain that computers really started being used during WWII to help produce things faster and make things more accurate so that the war would be over sooner.
- Explain to students that:
 - One of the things a computer can do is connect you to the World Wide Web, which allows millions of people to share information from one computer to another.
 - In the future, computers will be used in almost every job.
 - Learning about computers is important for your future.

Assessment:

- Why were computers important in World War II?
- How does technology affect students' lives? Have students list or draw ways they use technology in the course of a week. Then have them share their lists and drawings.
- **Technology integration:** On computers, have students use the Internet to look up: radio, radar, phonograph, kodachrome, Volkswagen beetle. These are all technologies that were invented or in use in the 1930s. Then ask students to think about what modern inventions have replaced these today.

Our computers' ancestors are from World War II!

The electronic digital computer, the version of the computers we use today, was invented during World War II. One was called Colossus, pictured here, and was built to break the enemy's secret codes. Another was called ENIAC (Electronic Numeric Integrator and Calculator) and was built at the University of Pennsylvania to solve math equations to help planes and weapons keep on their target. These computers did signal the start of the types of computers that we have on our desktops today.

