Democracy and Progress

An Age of Revolutions (1750–1914)

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Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*


Flash activity (these activities are not editable)


Teacher notes included in the Notes page

An age of innovation

By the end of this section, you will have learned about 19th century artistic, scientific and technical innovations, and be able to answer the following key questions:

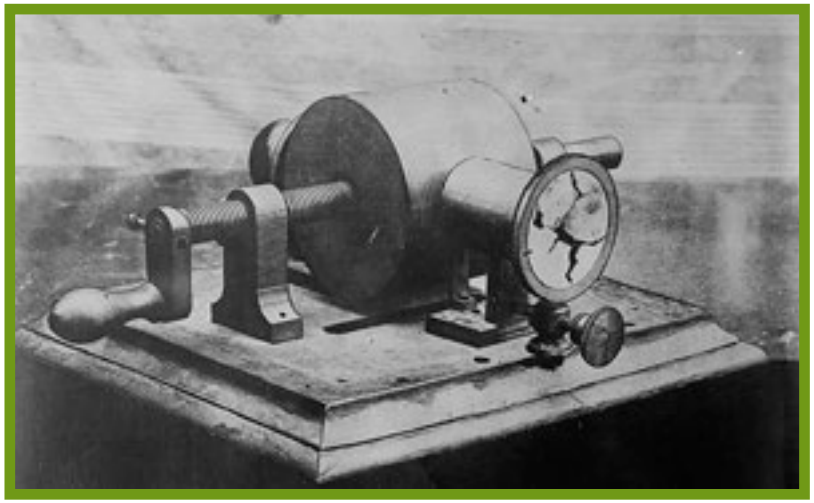
- What effects did the social and political reforms of the 19th century have on the arts?
- What advances in science and medicine were made in the 19th and early 20th centuries?
- What industrial and technical innovations were made this time?

Consumer culture

The rapid industrialization of the Western world gave rise to a **consumer culture**, as people began to crave new goods, entertainment and experiences.

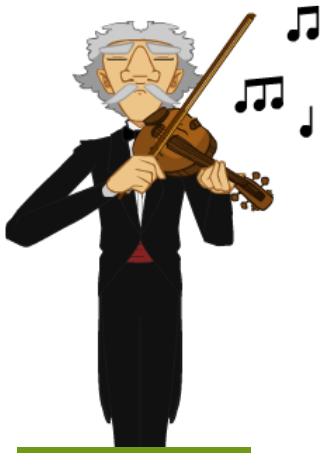
Innovations such as the player piano, cameras and radios were in high demand, and moving pictures were invented.

Popular music began to fill new dance halls, and began to be sold to play at home on the newly invented phonograph.



Progress in the Arts

The political and economic reforms of the 19th century also brought about a number of changes in the Arts and popular culture. This included music, art, literature, and sports.

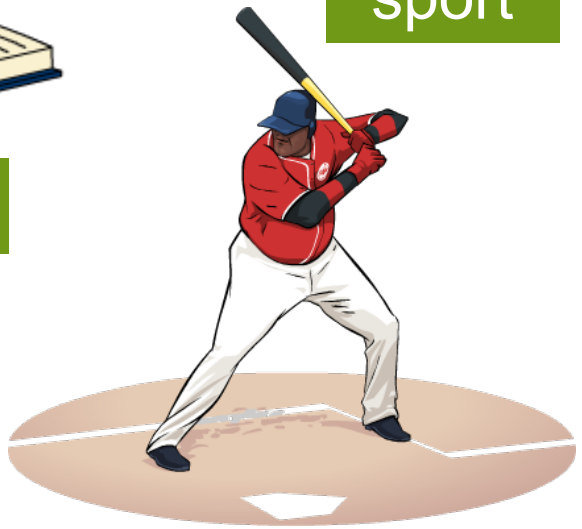


music

art

literature

sport



How do you think that these aspects of society might have changed during the 19th century?

Romanticism in the Arts

Romanticism was a popular movement in the arts in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Press on the images to see how each art was affected by Romantic ideas.

Press **start** to begin.

start

Realism in the Arts

In the mid-19th century, artists began to express the belief that the arts should represent the world realistically.

This **realist** movement was closely related to advances in science, and employed a more descriptive understanding of art.

For example, Charles Dickens' novels, which dealt with the realities of life for the working classes in the Industrial Revolution, became a huge success. They even helped to inspire reform of society, as they portrayed the lives of the poor with a realism which had not often been seen before.

Realism vs. Romanticism

The two main artistic movements in the 18th and 19th centuries were Romanticism and Realism. These movements had very different understandings of the way that people ought to relate to the world around them. Drag each statement to the correct place, depending on the artistic movement it refers to.

Press **start** to begin.

start

S C

Popular sports

Being outdoors and living a more physical life also became more popular, and this led to a greater interest in sports. Can you link each sport to the date of its invention?

Press **start** to begin.

start

The Great Exhibition

In 1851, Prince Albert of Great Britain hosted the **Great Exhibition** in Hyde Park, London.

This was an opportunity to celebrate the technological, cultural and scientific advances of the age, with exhibitors from all around the world.

It also allowed Britain to stake its claim to be the industrial center of the world. Perhaps the most impressive feature of the exhibition was the hall itself – the 'Crystal Palace'. The hall was built in just nine months from iron and glass and covered an area of over 71,000 square meters.

The Wizard of Menlo Park

Thomas Edison was one of America's most prolific inventors, and many of his inventions had a great influence on people's lives. Watch this animation to view some of his inventions.

Press **start** to begin.

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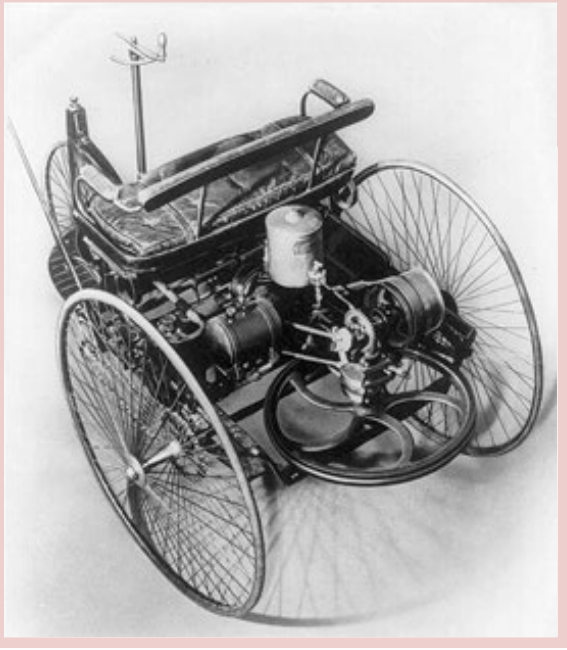
Transportation

In the late 1800s two German engineers, Karl Benz and Gottlieb Daimler worked independently on inventing and developing the gasoline-powered automobile engine.



Early cars were hand-built, so were expensive to manufacture. Henry Ford, an American engineer, standardized car parts and pioneered **assembly line** production. This improved his factory's efficiency, and lowered costs.

The price of his vehicles dropped to around $300, meaning that by 1916 there were over 3 million cars on the road in America.

Communication

Industrialization brought about a number of inventions which pushed the frontiers of human understanding.

Communication was revolutionized, and became possible over greater distances in shorter times. **Telegraph cables** were laid across the Atlantic Ocean in 1866, and across the Indian Ocean in 1870.

At the end of the 19th century, Alexander Graham Bell invented the first telephone, and in 1895 the first radio was created by Guglielmo Marconi.

What social changes might these inventions have produced?

Science and medicine

In the 19th century, science and medicine gained new importance, and there were great breakthroughs in both fields. Press on the tabs to learn more about these breakthroughs.

Press **start** to begin.

start

Science and medicine timeline

The 19th century was time of great progress for scientific and medical research, and a number of breakthroughs were made, many of which are crucial to our understanding of the world today. Watch this animation to view some of the breakthroughs made.

Press **start** to begin.

start

Review

Test your knowledge of 19th century reforms with this quiz. Choose the correct answer to each question to see how much you can remember about democracy and progress.

Press **start** to begin.

start

Glossary

Test your understanding of democracy and progress by recapping key terms and important people using this glossary. Press on the tabs and then each term to see a definition.

Press **start** to begin.

start