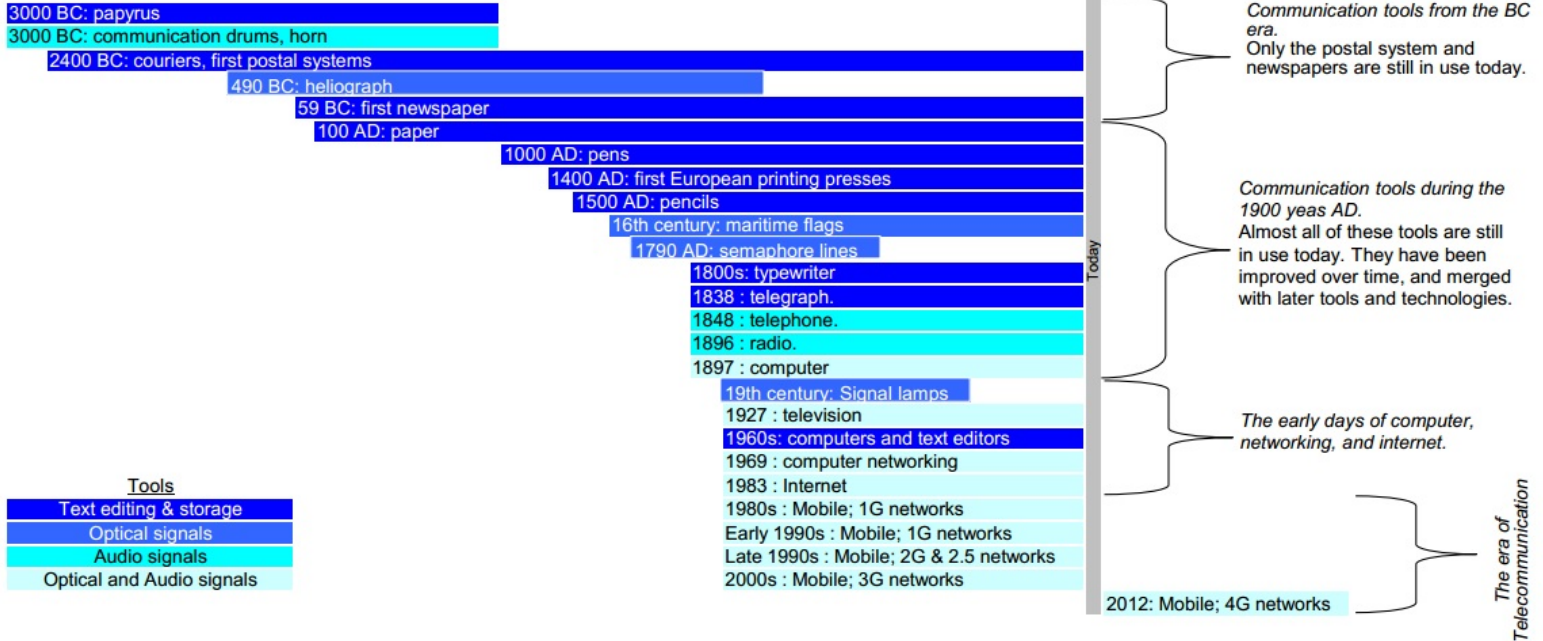


Pictures of Communication Techniques Throughout History

Timeline of communication tools

Timeline of Communication tools



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History of Writing

Cave paintings (Petroglyphs)

Cave paints are the first known forms of documented communication between humans, although scientists believe primitive humans could communicate using language for hundreds of thousands of years before cave paintings began.



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Pictograms

Pictograms were the first use of images to illustrate concepts, activities, or places. That is to say, the image represented something happening. Where cave paintings were a snapshot of an event that took place (much like how artists would paint battlefields in the 17th and 18th centuries), pictograms would tell a story using a sequence of images (like a movie you'd see today).



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Ideograms

Ideograms evolved from pictograms. In pictograms, the images themselves literally represented the object or action that took place. For example, a circle could represent the sun or moon. Ideograms however could convey more abstract ideas. A circle of the sun could represent 'heat' or 'daylight'.



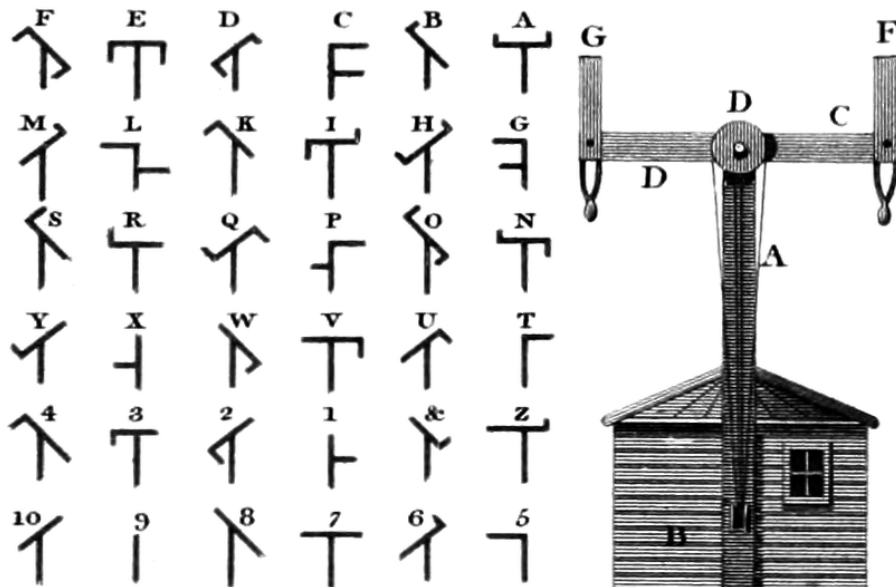
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Modern Writing

From ideograms, three broad categories of writing emerged and are still used today. Logograms are a symbol that represent a word or phrase. Chinese characters and traditional Japanese kanji are examples of logograms. For example, “家” is the Japanese kanji for house. Syllabic writing is the use of a symbol that represent an entire syllable. For example in Japanese, the symbol “<” represents the syllable “ku”. Alphabets have symbols that each represent a specific sound, both for consonants and vowels. Stringing these symbols together create syllables. The text you are reading now is an example of this writing system.

History of Telecommunication

Telecommunication first arose in the late 18th century where smoke signals and drums were used to communicate a number of messages across large distances. Visual telegraphy was also invented in the 18th century, where a device similar to a clock could relay the alphabet providing the receiver had a direct line of sight to the communicator.



By John Farey, Jr. - Rees's Cyclopædia, Plates Vol. IV, "TELEGRAPH", Fig. 4; from a digital scan at <http://archive.org/details/cyclopaediaplates04rees>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=24398825>

In the 19th century several versions of the telegraph were invented and then improved upon. The first telegraph initially used 32 wires to send information, whereas the popular telegraph that dominated the world in the mid 19th century and early 20th century used only two wires. Morse was a co-developer of this two-wired telegraph, and is famous for co-devising the communication method Morse Code.



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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3961718>

Communication technology quickly evolved soon afterwards. In the late 19th century Alexander Graham Bell invented the electric telephone which could transmit the sounds of a person's voice across wires. Communication across radio waves was invented only a few years later, and a couple decades after that television was able to be sent through radio waves. By the 1960s, AT&T developed the first video calling technology similar to Skype or Google Hangouts today.



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During the cold war, satellites were put into space to allow communications across long distances as an alternative to cables being laid on the ocean floor. Communications over satellite declined after improvements to the reliability of submarine cables were discovered, however some remote areas of the planet still rely exclusively on satellite telecommunication. The beginnings of the internet also started in the 1960s. The technology evolved over several decades and now is widespread throughout most of the developed and developing world. Information moving through the internet today both in your cellphones and through landlines are still largely dependent on the original infrastructure for telephone and television networks.