

PART ONE: ORDER UP!

- 1 Throughout history, humans have made significant advancements in how we communicate, how we travel, and how we fight. Cut out the milestones on the last page of the handout and rearrange them in chronological order.

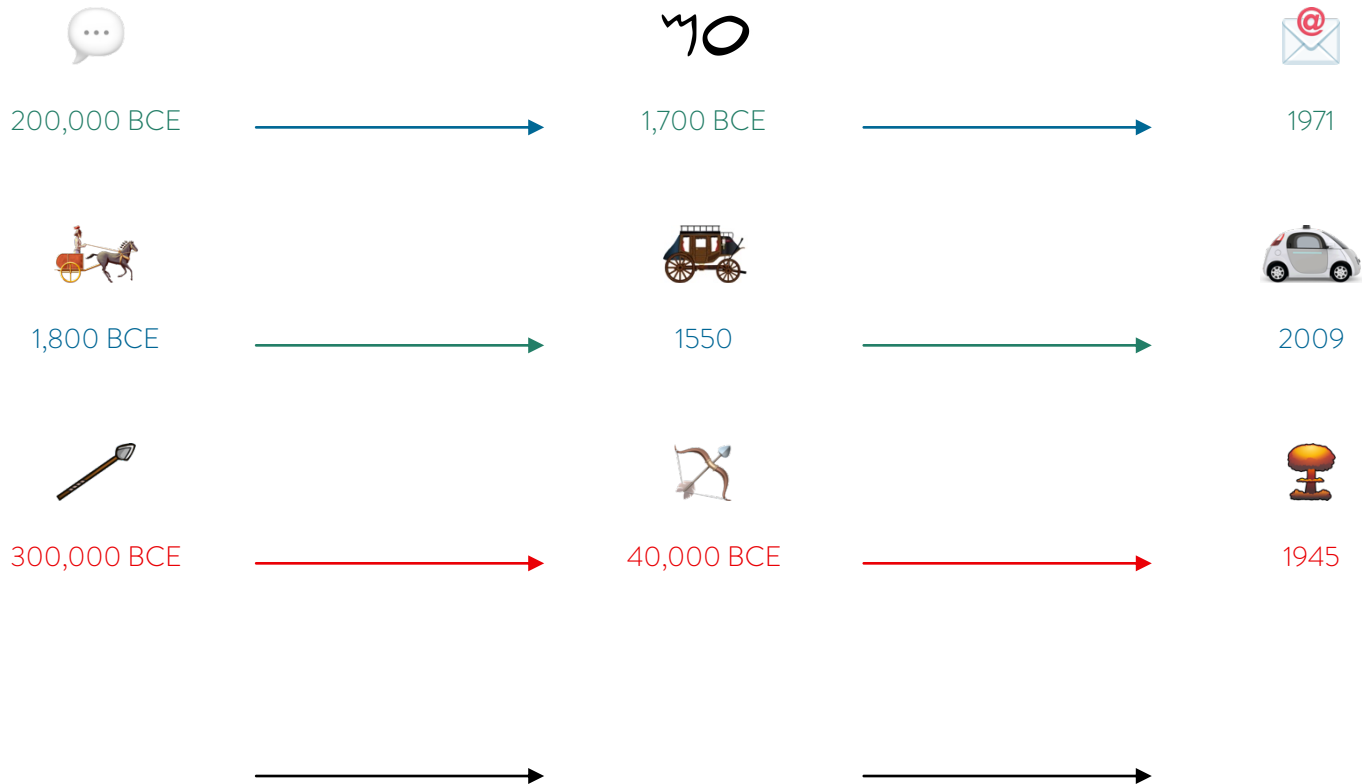
Within each category, which milestone do you think felt the most “revolutionary” at the time and why?

- 2 Using string, tape, or some other material, create a number line to represent a timeline of human history. Then choose a category – **communication**, **transportation**, or **warfare** – and position the milestones as accurately as you can. (If it’s helpful, you can use negative numbers to represent “BCE” years, where $-200,000 = 200,000$ BCE.)

What do you notice about how many years it took for humans to advance from one milestone to the next? Are you surprised by this?

PART TWO: SPREAD OUT

- 3 The following diagrams show innovations in **communication**, **transportation**, and **warfare**. Calculate how many years it took for humans to advance between each innovation. (In the fourth diagram, choose a category – communication, transportation, or warfare – and pick your own three innovations. Try to pick ones which you think tell the most interesting story about how technology has advanced.)



- 4 Some people think *new* is the same as *better*, while others argue that technology is changing faster than humans can keep up. Watch the video about three innovations we might see in the future. What do you think about the pace of innovation, and what might be some consequences – both good and bad – for humanity?

COMMUNICATION

Alphabet	🔤	1,700 BCE
Cave Paintings	🦏	30,000 BCE
Email	✉️	1971
FM Radio	📻	1933
Hieroglyphics	🏺	5,000 BCE
iPhone	📱	2007
Mobile Phone	📞	1973
Oculus (VR)	🎮	2013
Paper	📜	100
Printing Press	📖	1439
Spoken Language	💬	200,000 BCE
Telegraph	📠	1840
Telephone	📞	1876
Television	📺	1909
Text Message	💬	1992
World Wide Web	🌐	1989

TRANSPORTATION

Airplane	✈️	1903
Animal Sledge	🦏	7,000 BCE
Canoe	🛶	8,000 BCE
Chariot	🐎	1,800 BCE
Galley	🚢	1,500 BCE
Gasoline Car	🚗	1886
Hot Air Balloon	🎈	1783
Jetliner	✈️	1952
Maglev Train	🚄	1984
Sailing Junk	🚢	200
Self-Driving Car	🚗	2009
Spacecraft	🚀	1961
Steamboat	🚢	1785
Steam Train	🚂	1804
Stage Coach	🚗	1550
Wheeled Cart	🚗	3,500 BCE

WARFARE

Atomic Bomb	💣	1945
Bow & Arrow	🏹	40,000 BCE
Cannon	🔫	1326
Catapult	🏹	400 BCE
Cyberwar	💻	2010
Drone	🚁	2002
Fighter Plane	✈️	1915
Grooved Rifle	🔫	1800
Gunpowder	💣	800
Iron Sword	🗡️	14,000 BCE
Jet Fighter	✈️	1941
Machine Gun	🔫	1861
Missile	🚀	1939
Musket	🔫	1475
Spear	🔫	300,000 BCE
Tank	🚗	1916