

Group Project: History of Digital Devices

Textbook

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Collaborating Through Online Digital Applications

Today, people around the world can work together on the same project—even if they've never met in person. Thanks to digital tools like Google Docs, Canva, Padlet, and Microsoft Teams, students, professionals, and creators can share ideas, assign tasks, and build amazing things together. These tools allow you to brainstorm, write, design, and edit in real time with your classmates, no matter where they are.

Example Project: A group of students creates a slideshow to persuade the school to start a recycling program. They divide up the slides, share ideas through a discussion board, and present their final product to the school principal.

Helpful Tools for Collaboration:

- **Google Slides** – co-create and edit slideshows.
- **Canva for Teams** – design posters and flyers together.
- **Trello** – manage project tasks as a group.
- **Padlet** – gather ideas and visuals on a shared board.

Designing and Publishing a Digital Product

Creating something meaningful from scratch is a great way to learn and make an impact. Whether you're working alone or in a group, a strong digital product has a clear purpose: to inform, persuade, or entertain.

Informative Products: A digital flyer teaching classmates about cyberbullying prevention.

Persuasive Products: A short video explaining why your school should add more outdoor seating.

Entertaining Products: A comic strip or animation showing the day in the life of a laptop.

Digital tools like Google Sites, iMovie, Scratch, and Adobe Express make it easier to design and publish these products. When finished, you can share your work with classmates, teachers, or even the wider community.

Exploring the History of Digital Devices

Before smartphones and laptops, computers used to fill entire rooms! Exploring older and outdated devices—called **legacy** or **antiquated technology**—helps us understand how far we've come in the world of computing.

Examples of Legacy Devices:

- **Floppy Disks** – used to store files, but could only hold a tiny amount of data.
- **CRT Monitors** – large, boxy screens before flat displays existed.
- **Rotary Phones** – used a spinning dial instead of buttons or touchscreens.

By studying these devices, students can build a timeline that shows the progression from old tech to the innovations we use today.

Creating a Timeline of Innovation

Timelines help us visualize change over time. When you create a timeline of an electronic device—like the evolution of cell phones or video game consoles—you can see how each new model built on the ones that came before.

Timeline Activity:

- Join with 2–3 other students in a small group to collaborate
- Assign roles/tasks to individuals
- Choose a device (e.g., digital cameras).
- Research at least 5 major innovations in its history.

- Use a digital tool like **Lucidchart**, **Timeline JS**, or **Google Drawings** to organize your findings.
- Include images, dates, and a brief description of each milestone.

Using Mathematical Thinking in Collaborative Projects

As you research the history of digital devices and organize your information, you'll also use **mathematical thinking**—even if it doesn't look like solving equations. For example, when comparing how much data floppy disks could store versus modern USB drives, you'll use **units, numbers, and comparisons** to explain how technology has changed. When creating your timeline, you'll consider the **sequence of years, time intervals**, and **how many innovations happened in a certain period**.

As you work together, take time to **talk about your thinking**. Why did your group choose to display the data in a chart instead of a table? Did someone suggest a more efficient way to group the timeline entries? What errors or patterns did you spot while reviewing your research? These kinds of conversations help you **analyze your own thinking, compare it to others' ideas**, and **choose the best method to present your findings clearly**.

Great mathematicians—and great collaborators—ask questions, explain their reasoning, and build on each other's ideas. This helps your final digital product become not just more accurate, but also more thoughtful and impactful.

Organizing Information With Digital Tools

When you gather a lot of information for a project, it's important to organize it so it's easy to understand and use. Digital tools can help you sort facts, group ideas, and spot patterns.

Examples:

- **Spreadsheets:** Use Google Sheets or Excel to list and compare information (e.g., features of different laptops).
- **Mind Maps:** Tools like MindMeister or Coggle let you visually organize thoughts and topics.
- **Databases:** Apps like Notion or Airtable allow you to create custom charts and filters for big collections of data.

Using digital tools in this way not only improves your work—it also prepares you for how professionals manage information in the real world.

Critical Thinking Questions

1. Why is collaboration important when creating a digital product?
2. How does exploring legacy technology help us innovate for the future?
3. What is one way you could organize research for a digital timeline project?

Questions (1)

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which of these is not a type of product mentioned in the textbook?

Choose the correct answer:

- A. Informative
- B. Persuasive
- C. Entertaining
- D. Collaborative

Answer Keys & Solutions

Questions

1. Which of these is not a type of product mentioned in the textbook?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Correct Answer:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| A. Informative | ✗ Incorrect |
| B. Persuasive | ✗ Incorrect |
| C. Entertaining | ✗ Incorrect |
| D. Collaborative | ✓ Correct |