

**Controlled Fire**  
 Fire gave our ancestors warmth and light. Fire helped them to prepare food and defend themselves from unwelcome animals.

**1 Million Years Ago**

**2 Million Years Ago**

**First Stone Tools**  
 The first simple tools made hunting, cutting and making things all easier.

**Farming**  
 Farming allowed humans to live in one place all year round and led to the first towns and cities.

**10,000 BC**

**Fibres & Fabrics**

**Pottery**  
 An invention that made cooking and storing food much easier.

**8,000 BC**

**Weaving Loom**

**Wine**  
**Plough**  
**Bread**  
**Beer (yeast)**  
 Beer provided among other things a safe drinking supply.

**6,000 BC**

**Sailing Boats**  
 Sailing boats have been one of the most important forms of transport for thousands of years. They were probably also the first real use of wind power.  
 Egypt

**5,000 BC**

**Water Pipes (Plumbing & Sewers)**  
 A convenient way to transport water to different locations.  
 Mesopotamia (Iraq)

**Writing**  
 For the first time humans could record their thoughts and ideas and pass them on to future generations.  
 Mesopotamia (Iraq)

**Bricks**  
 Bricks provided a cheap and durable building material in those countries where wood or stone was in short supply.  
 Mesopotamia (Iraq)

**Wheel**  
 The first wheels were heavy solid wooden wheels used for carts pulled by oxen.  
 Mesopotamia (Iraq)

**Iron**  
 Iron was harder than bronze and was easier to make locally. Unlike iron, bronze needed tin which could only be found in a very few places worldwide.

**Glass**  
 When glass was first invented it was probably more precious than gold.

**Bronze**  
 The invention of bronze was the first widespread use of metal. Bronze could be made into many things including weapons, tools or jewellery.

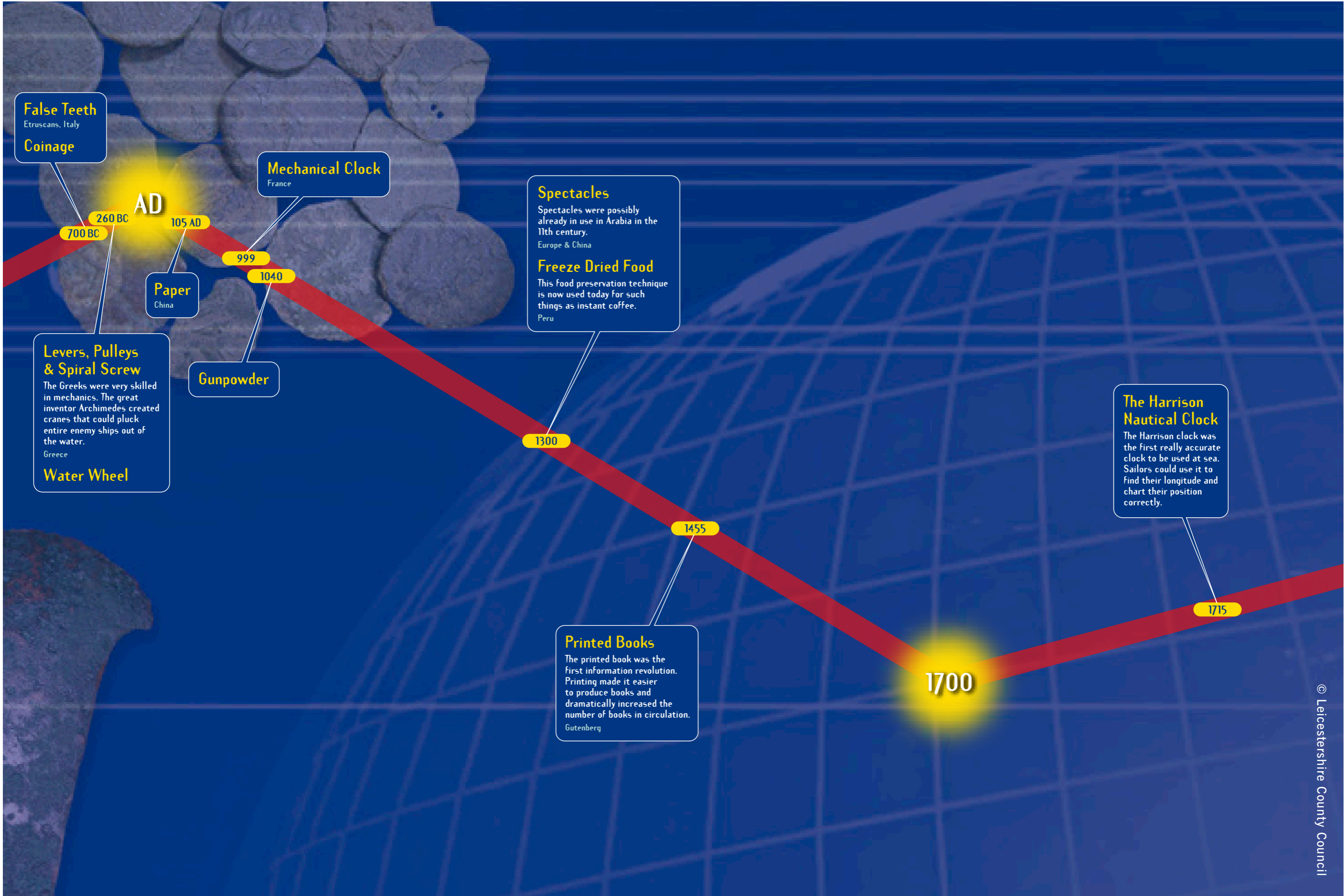
**Soap**  
 Babylon (Iraq)

**3,000 BC**

**2,800 BC**

**2,000 BC**

**1500 BC**



**Watt Steam Engine**  
The first efficient use of steam power. This invention powered the industrial revolution.  
James Watt

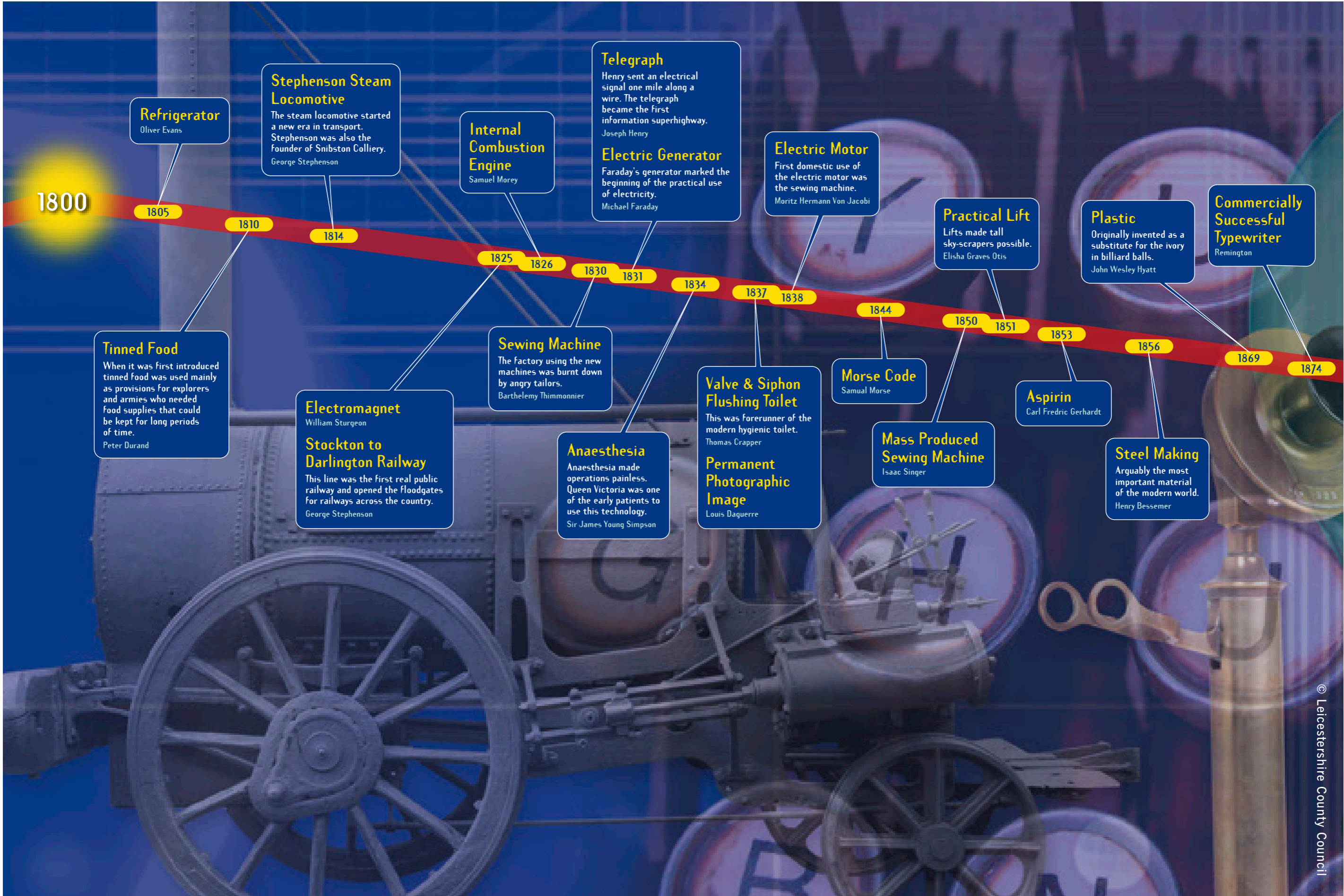
1769 1771

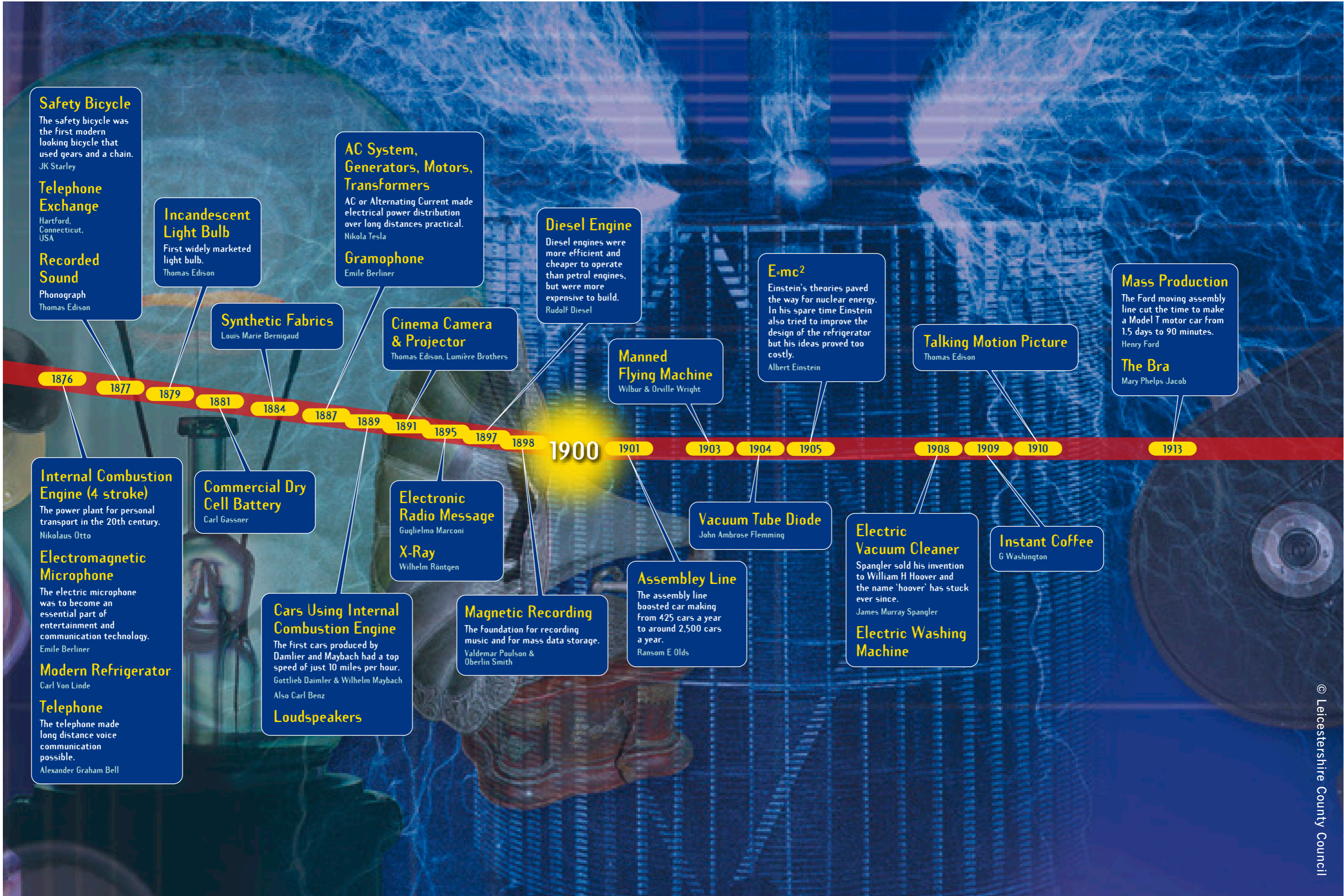
**Powered Textile Machines**  
These machines helped create the factory age and were used to produce cloth in large quantities.

**Steel Ball Bearings**  
Philip Vaughan

1791 1796

**Vaccination**  
Jenner pioneered vaccination as an effective way of preventing smallpox.  
Edward Jenner





**Safety Bicycle**

The safety bicycle was the first modern looking bicycle that used gears and a chain.  
JK Starley

**Telephone Exchange**

Hartford, Connecticut, USA

**Recorded Sound**

Phonograph  
Thomas Edison

**Incandescent Light Bulb**

First widely marketed light bulb.  
Thomas Edison

**AC System, Generators, Motors, Transformers**

AC or Alternating Current made electrical power distribution over long distances practical.  
Nikola Tesla

**Gramophone**

Emile Berliner

**Diesel Engine**

Diesel engines were more efficient and cheaper to operate than petrol engines, but were more expensive to build.  
Rudolf Diesel

**E=mc<sup>2</sup>**

Einstein's theories paved the way for nuclear energy. In his spare time Einstein also tried to improve the design of the refrigerator but his ideas proved too costly.  
Albert Einstein

**Manned Flying Machine**

Wilbur & Orville Wright

**Talking Motion Picture**

Thomas Edison

**Mass Production**

The Ford moving assembly line cut the time to make a Model T motor car from 1.5 days to 90 minutes.  
Henry Ford

**The Bra**

Mary Phelps Jacob

**Synthetic Fabrics**

Louis Marie Bernigaud

**Cinema Camera & Projector**

Thomas Edison, Lumière Brothers

**Internal Combustion Engine (4 stroke)**

The power plant for personal transport in the 20th century.  
Nikolaus Otto

**Electromagnetic Microphone**

The electric microphone was to become an essential part of entertainment and communication technology.  
Emile Berliner

**Modern Refrigerator**

Carl Von Linde

**Telephone**

The telephone made long distance voice communication possible.  
Alexander Graham Bell

**Commercial Dry Cell Battery**

Carl Gassner

**Electronic Radio Message**

Guglielmo Marconi

**X-Ray**

Wilhelm Röntgen

**Cars Using Internal Combustion Engine**

The first cars produced by Daimler and Maybach had a top speed of just 10 miles per hour.  
Gottlieb Daimler & Wilhelm Maybach  
Also Carl Benz

**Loudspeakers**

**Magnetic Recording**

The foundation for recording music and for mass data storage.  
Valdemar Poulsen & Oberlin Smith

**Assembly Line**

The assembly line boosted car making from 425 cars a year to around 2,500 cars a year.  
Ransom E Olds

**Vacuum Tube Diode**

John Ambrose Fleming

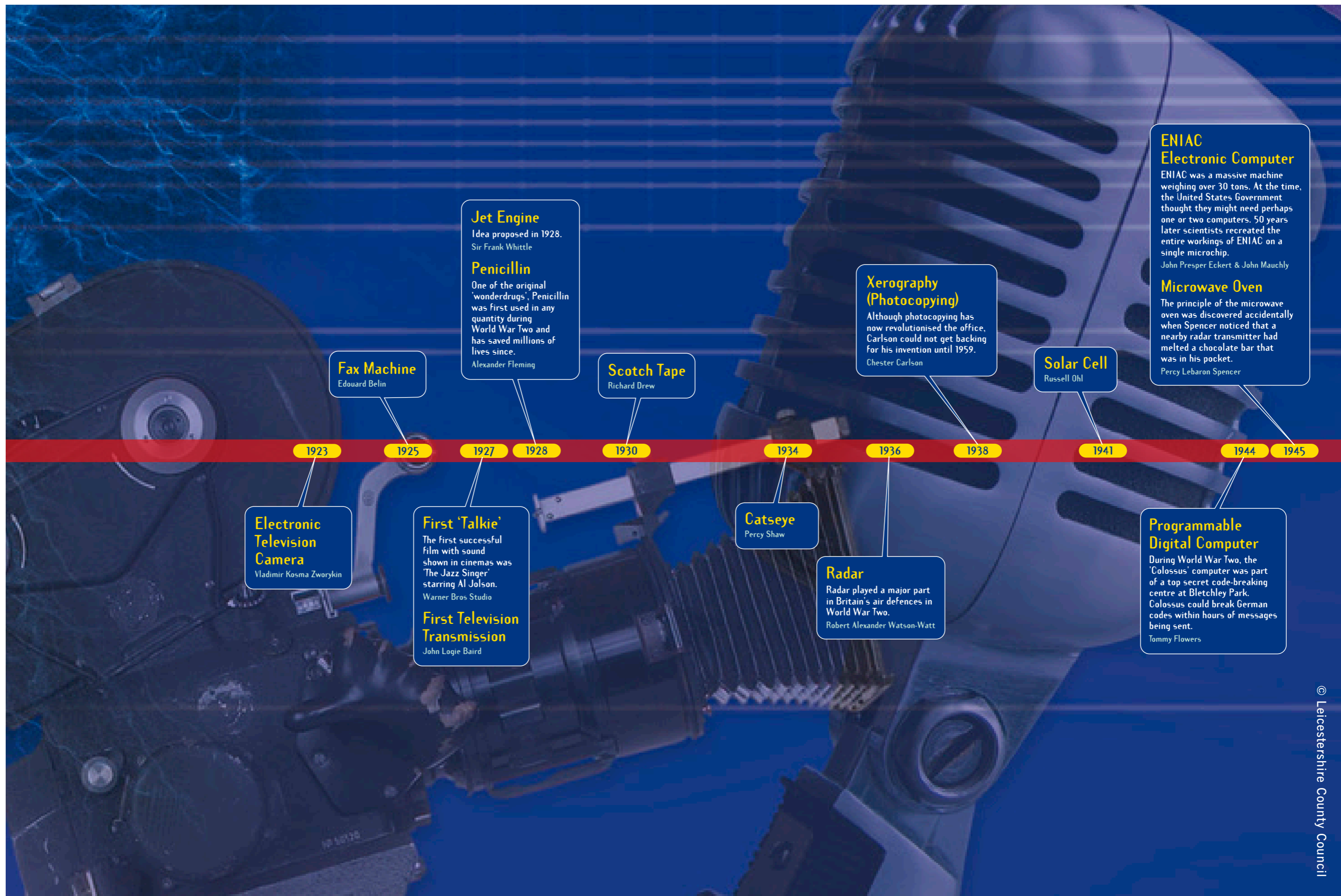
**Electric Vacuum Cleaner**

Spangler sold his invention to William H Hoover and the name 'hoover' has stuck ever since.  
James Murray Spangler

**Electric Washing Machine**

**Instant Coffee**

G Washington



**Electronic Television Camera**  
Vladimir Kosma Zworykin

1923

**Fax Machine**  
Edouard Belin

1925

**Jet Engine**  
Idea proposed in 1928.  
Sir Frank Whittle

**Penicillin**  
One of the original 'wonderdrugs', Penicillin was first used in any quantity during World War Two and has saved millions of lives since.  
Alexander Fleming

1927

1928

**Scotch Tape**  
Richard Drew

1930

**Catseye**  
Percy Shaw

1934

**Radar**  
Radar played a major part in Britain's air defences in World War Two.  
Robert Alexander Watson-Watt

1936

**Xerography (Photocopying)**  
Although photocopying has now revolutionised the office, Carlson could not get backing for his invention until 1959.  
Chester Carlson

1938

**Solar Cell**  
Russell Ohl

1941

**Programmable Digital Computer**  
During World War Two, the 'Colossus' computer was part of a top secret code-breaking centre at Bletchley Park. Colossus could break German codes within hours of messages being sent.  
Tommy Flowers

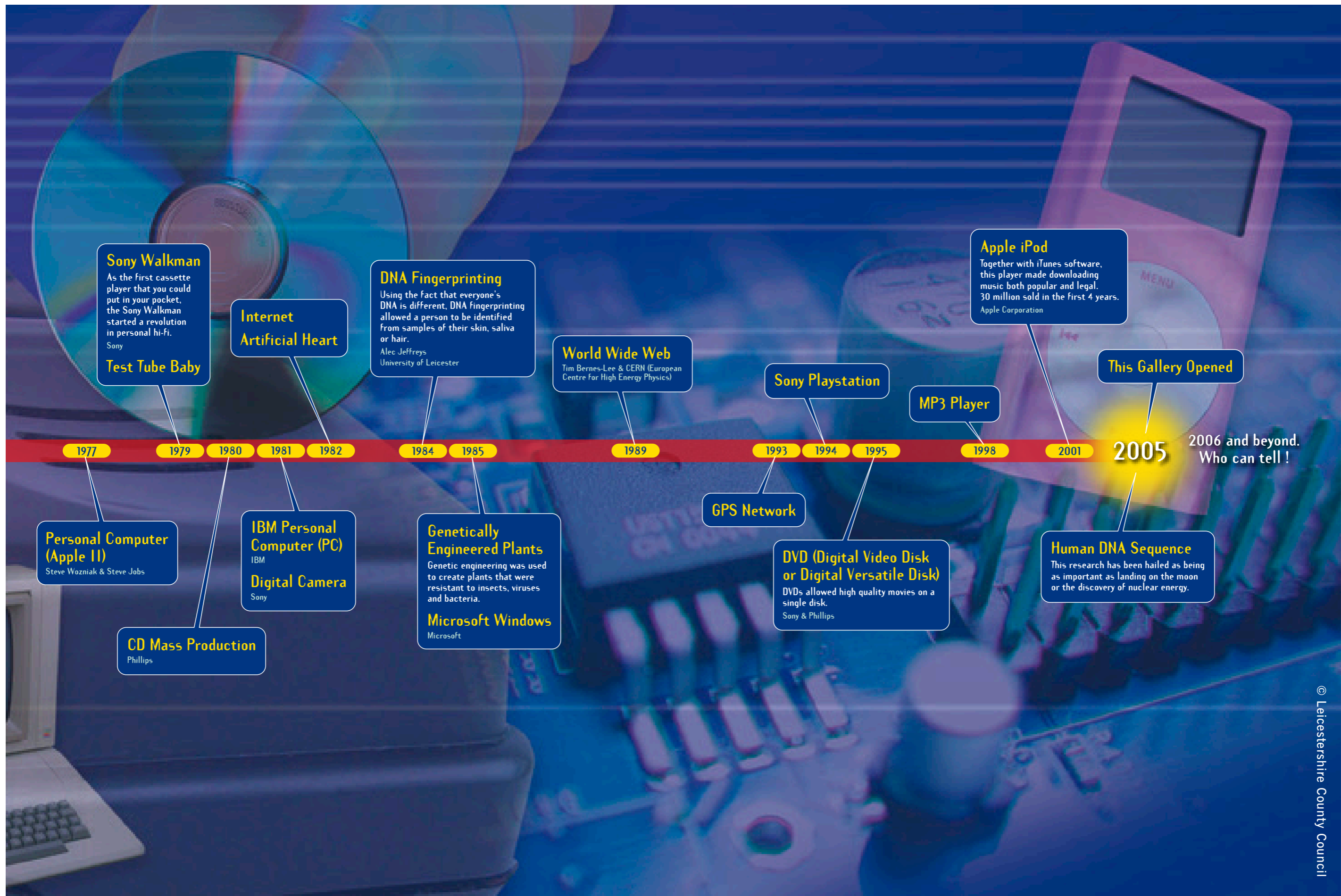
1944

1945

**ENIAC Electronic Computer**  
ENIAC was a massive machine weighing over 30 tons. At the time, the United States Government thought they might need perhaps one or two computers. 50 years later scientists recreated the entire workings of ENIAC on a single microchip.  
John Presper Eckert & John Mauchly

**Microwave Oven**  
The principle of the microwave oven was discovered accidentally when Spencer noticed that a nearby radar transmitter had melted a chocolate bar that was in his pocket.  
Percy Lebaron Spencer





**Sony Walkman**  
As the first cassette player that you could put in your pocket, the Sony Walkman started a revolution in personal hi-fi.  
Sony

**Test Tube Baby**

**Internet**  
**Artificial Heart**

**DNA Fingerprinting**  
Using the fact that everyone's DNA is different, DNA fingerprinting allowed a person to be identified from samples of their skin, saliva or hair.  
Alec Jeffreys  
University of Leicester

**World Wide Web**  
Tim Bernes-Lee & CERN (European Centre for High Energy Physics)

**Sony Playstation**

**MP3 Player**

**Apple iPod**  
Together with iTunes software, this player made downloading music both popular and legal. 30 million sold in the first 4 years.  
Apple Corporation

**This Gallery Opened**

2006 and beyond.  
Who can tell!

1977

1979

1980

1981

1982

1984

1985

1989

1993

1994

1995

1998

2001

2005

**Personal Computer (Apple II)**  
Steve Wozniak & Steve Jobs

**IBM Personal Computer (PC)**  
IBM

**Digital Camera**  
Sony

**CD Mass Production**  
Phillips

**Genetically Engineered Plants**  
Genetic engineering was used to create plants that were resistant to insects, viruses and bacteria.

**Microsoft Windows**  
Microsoft

**GPS Network**

**DVD (Digital Video Disk or Digital Versatile Disk)**  
DVDs allowed high quality movies on a single disk.  
Sony & Phillips

**Human DNA Sequence**  
This research has been hailed as being as important as landing on the moon or the discovery of nuclear energy.