

ACTIVITY!

Through the Years

Some of the inventions we use today existed long ago, but in completely different forms. The telephone that Alexander Graham Bell patented in 1876, for example, looks much different from the smartphone you might carry in your pocket today. In this activity, you will research a product and create a timeline showing the development of that product from its earliest **iteration** to its current form.

Think of an invention that has been around for several decades. Some ideas include the telephone, the computer, the bicycle, and the car.

Research the history of this product. Find out important facts about it.

- * Who invented it?
- * What did it look like?
- * What problem did it solve?
- * How did it fail before it succeeded?
- * How many people contributed to its success?
- * How has it changed during its lifespan?
- * What does it look like now?
- * How is that different from what it looked like earlier?

Record your research and create a timeline in your engineering design notebook. How do you think this invention will change in the future? What modifications would you make to improve it? Include your redesigned product of the future in your timeline.

THINK MORE: Think about the market for your future product. Who will want it and how will they use it? How much will it cost? How will you promote your product? Create a marketing campaign that entices people to buy it.

WORDS TO KNOW

iteration: the repetition of a process in order to make a product better and better.