



## The World's Greatest Inventions Media List

### Debatable Question

The debatable question for this argument-centered project is:

**Which 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century invention had the biggest positive impact on our quality of life: the airplane, the internet, the light bulb, penicillin, the personal computer, or the phone?**

### Background Information/Multiple Sides

<https://www.history.com/news/history-lists/11-innovations-that-changed-history>

A list of eleven inventions that changed the course of history, with a short description of the way that each did just that.

<https://www.livescience.com/33749-top-10-inventions-changed-world.html>

Live Science presents a slide show with the 10 inventions that it says most changed the world.

<http://bigthink.com/paul-ratner/top-20-greatest-inventions-of-all-time>

Big Think lists what it calls the twenty most important inventions of all time.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/06/explore-top-ten-innovations/>

The U.S. Librarian of Congress ranks the top ten inventions of all time.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2013/11/innovations-list/309536/>

*The Atlantic* categorizes inventions and investigates why some inventions took longer to be created than others, along with what the future looks like for inventing.

## Airplane

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-nasa-wright-brothers-invention/id/25691>

Brief history of the Wright brothers' invention of the airplane.

[http://www.wright-brothers.org/History\\_Wing/History\\_of\\_the\\_Airplane/History\\_of\\_the\\_Airplane\\_Intro/History\\_of\\_the\\_Airplane\\_Intro.htm](http://www.wright-brothers.org/History_Wing/History_of_the_Airplane/History_of_the_Airplane_Intro/History_of_the_Airplane_Intro.htm)

Details about the Wright brothers invention of the airplane, along with summary of what was happening in the field just prior to their invention and what happened immediately subsequent to it.

<https://www.reference.com/vehicles/benefits-airplanes-bd2feabbe3b0f200#>

Very concise answers to questions pertaining to the benefits to society that airplanes have brought.

<http://traveltips.usatoday.com/advantages-air-travel-12486.html>

Airplane travel is the best way for individual travelers to get to their destination.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2010/apr/06/aviation-q-and-a>

Airplanes are very bad for the environment.

## Internet

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-history-invention-internet/id/25392>

Brief history of the invention of the internet.

<https://www.internetsociety.org/internet/history-internet/brief-history-internet/>

More detailed history of the development of the internet.

<https://blog.neosperience.com/10-ways-the-internet-has-changed-the-way-we-live-and-do-business>

The internet has utterly transformed the way we live and work.

<https://www.technologyreview.com/s/530566/the-impact-of-the-internet-on-society-a-global-perspective/>

The internet is the decisive technology of the information age.

<https://www.parentcircle.com/article/the-negative-effects-of-internet-addiction-in-children/>

Internet addiction can be very harmful, especially to children.

## Light Bulb

<https://newsela.com/read/bio-inventor-thomas-edison/id/18920>

Brief history of Thomas Alva Edison and his invention of the electric light bulb.

<https://www.fi.edu/history-resources/edisons-lightbulb>

More details on Edison's invention of the light bulb.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbiCLHneyaA>

It's History, an educational video producer, put out "Let There Be Light" in 2015, exploring the benefits to society of the invention of the light bulb.

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/lighting/19thcent/consq19.htm>

The spillover benefits of the invention of the light bulb are explored by American History.

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2009/oct/31/life-before-artificial-light>

There were forms of lighting before the light bulb.

## Penicillin

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/the-real-story-behind-the-worlds-first-antibiotic>

A more robust history of the invention of penicillin than is usually offered in schools.

<https://www.healio.com/endocrinology/news/print/endocrine-today/%7B15afd2a1-2084-4ca6-a4e6-7185f5c4cfb0%7D/penicillin-an-accidental-discovery-changed-the-course-of-medicine>

Penicillin is now the most widely prescribed antibiotic in the world.

<https://howpenicillinchangedourlives.weebly.com/>

Penicillin has saved millions of lives.

<https://www.prevention.com/health/3-ways-antibiotics-can-do-more-harm-than-good>

There are some negative side effects to antibiotics, especially when used over sustained periods of time.

## Personal Computer

<https://www.history.com/topics/inventions/invention-of-the-pc>



A very concise history of the invention of the personal computer.

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/science/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/history-development-and-importance-personal-computers>

Discussion of the value to society of the personal computer over the past 50 years.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/new-research-shows-internet-impacts-lives-article-1.2409204>

The internet affects almost every aspect of our lives, mostly for the better.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/06/the-computer-revolution-how-its-changed-our-world-over-60-years>

The revolution brought about by the personal computer.

<https://www.techwalla.com/articles/positive-negative-effects-of-computers>

Computers have had downsides and negative consequences on quality of life, too.

## Phone

<https://newsela.com/read/bio-inventor-alexander-graham-bell/id/19018>

Brief history of Alexander Graham Bell and his invention of the telephone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdgi6G7IZVc>

Quick video on the historical circumstances surrounding the invention of the phone.

<https://www.techwalla.com/articles/positive-effects-of-telephones>

Cell phones have changed our lives dramatically and for the better.

<https://www.theodysseyonline.com/10-ways-technology-negatively-affected-society>

Cell phones are having a variety of negative effects on people, especially young people.