

# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HISTORICAL TIMELINE

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS AS OLD AS MANKIND. MANY 'INVENTIONS' CLAIMED AFTER THE 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY IN FACT DATED BACK TO THE GREEKS AND CHINESE MANY CENTURIES BEFORE. SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION PROPOSED BY THE GREEK PHILOSOPHER ARISTOTLE (384 – 322 BC) AND OTHERS WAS LOST IN THE DARK AGES IN BRITAIN AND EUROPE AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

## THE BIRTH OF TECHNOLOGY (2 MILLION YEARS BC)

### TOOLS

The birth of 'technology' was when the first human-like species, *Homo habilis* ('skilful person' 2.6 million years BC) made sharp **cutting edges** from stone. Later, *Homo neanderthalis* or cave men (200 000 – 30 000 years BC) used tools and weapons and were the very successful **ancestors** of *Homo sapiens*, the species we recognise as our ancestors today.



Swords, daggers and other weaponry represented a warlike society but are also interpreted as items of social status, perhaps given as diplomatic gifts between tribes; pictured is the Iron Age Celtic dagger from 250 – 50 BC

### METALS

**Lead** (Pb), one of the softest metals, was being **extracted** from rock in 6500 BC in Anatolia (now Turkey) followed by **copper** (Cu) three thousand years later in Mesopotamia. The Iron Age was built on a hard, strong and **versatile** metal, iron (Fe).

### THE WHEEL

Around 4500 BC the wheel and **axle** combination became the most important



The 15<sup>th</sup> century saw the start of mechanical printing machines able to make identical copies of sheets of paper and books.

invention of all time. **Carts** came into common use. By 2000 BC wheels had **spokes**, and then rapid development occurred with waterwheels and windmills to provide power.



The wheel, the longest-used invention in human history, had the biggest influence on the development of modern civilization.

## NEW INVENTIONS (9<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY)

### ARAB ALCHEMY

Turning common metals into precious metals, **proved to be a dead end** around the 9<sup>th</sup> century A.D. Nevertheless, Arabs were clever chemists and discovered many chemicals that we use today.

### GUNPOWDER

The recipe for making gunpowder appeared in a book in Europe in 1242. Roger Bacon (1214 – 1294), an English

Gunpowder is a substance used in guns to propel (= move forward) the bullet.



# Technology And American Society A History

**LL Leslie**



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