

1869 Austria introduces the first postcards. For only pennies, postcards keep people in touch before telephones are common. Calling cards, commercial valentines and other printed personal greetings are popular customs.



1876 Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone. By the end of the millennium, missing a phone call is almost impossible as answering machines take instant messages. Cell phones, beepers and voice mail expand communication options.



1879 Inventor Thomas Edison patents a practical electric light bulb. Electric lights have a profound effect on society, increasing opportunities for reading, writing, socializing and working.



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1860 Pony Express carries mail.

1895 Viewers marvel at early silent movies.

1928 Mickey Mouse appears on film.

1947 Bell Labs invents first transistor.

1963 King delivers "I Have a Dream" speech.

1968 Vietnam War sparks protests.

1989 Berlin Wall falls.

2000

Edison invents phonograph.

U.S. women win right to vote.

Drive-in theaters attract crowds.

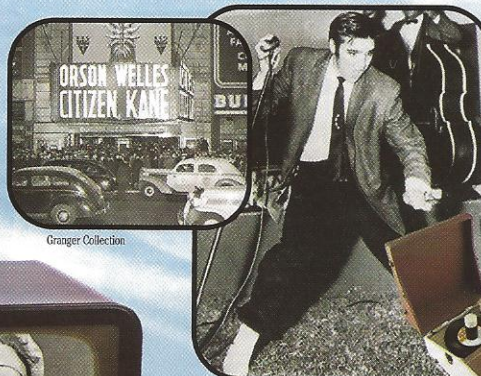
Russia launches *Sputnik*.

TV carries President Kennedy's funeral.

MTV goes on air.

HDTV becomes available.

1930 Movie making experiences a "golden age" in the late 1930s and early 1940s. In 1939, *Gone With the Wind* and *The Wizard of Oz* premiere. *Citizen Kane* follows in 1941, and *Casablanca* in 1942. Studio giants are MGM, Paramount, RKO and Warner Brothers.



Granger Collection

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C/B Production/Stock Market

1978 Personal computers become available to the mass market, thus paving the way for desktop publishing. By 1990, laptop notebook computers allow people to compute from almost anywhere.



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1956 Elvis Presley's unique blend of blues, country, rock and gospel draws adoring fans and makes him "the King" of rock and roll. In 1956, his debut album becomes the first in history to sell a million copies.



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1945 Television is invented in 1926, and regular network TV broadcasts begin after World War II. One of TV's most popular shows is CBS's "I Love Lucy," premiering in 1951. Television transforms almost every aspect of life in the twentieth century.

2000

1997 Millions of people worldwide cruise the Information Highway via the Internet, and instantaneous e-mail communication becomes common. As the millennium ends, computer, TV, video and telephone technologies begin to converge.