

Radio

1 INTRODUCE



What is this object called?

A Transistor Radio.

What job did this object do?

It enabled people to listen to music and to listen to talk radio.

What objects today do the same

job? Ipods, smart phones, computers and digital audio players.



2 INVESTIGATE



Let the children examine the radio.

3 DESIGN/MATERIALS



What is this object made out of? Plastic

What are the different parts of the phone called?

Handle, radio tuner, volume control, antennae, on/off dial, speaker, cord holder, battery holder, fm/am dial.

Is it portable? Yes. It has a handle and is light enough to carry around.

4 HOW DID IT WORK?



Turn it on and play with it - extend the aerial, turn the dials.

How did it work? First you need to tune it to the station you wanted to listen to. Next the antenna catches that station's radio waves which are floating in the air and electronic devices inside the radio change these waves into music which you can hear.

Who used it?

Everyone



5 LEARN MORE...SAY...

Transistor radios such as these were popular when your parents and grandparents were young. It is called a transistor radio because if we pulled it apart we would find little devices called transistors sitting inside. These transistors turn the small radio waves caught by the antennae into noise loud enough for us to hear.

Transistors are only little and this is why these radios are only little. Before transistors were invented, radios were big wooden boxes that sat on the floor in the corner of your lounge room (show image 1). These transistor radios were very popular because unlike the radios before them, they could be carried around. They were also cheaper and several people in the one family could afford to have one which meant instead of all having to listen to the same radio station, each person could listen to a different one.



6 COMPARE IT TO TECHNOLOGIES TODAY

How is this radio the same or different from other devices we use for listening to music today? Not as small, less portable. With a radio you have no control over content as opposed to a digital audio player where you can create play lists and control what you listen to. Cannot be charged. Requires a battery or electricity.

Can only do one job as opposed to iPads, mobile phones etc which can do several different jobs.

Do people still use radios today? If so when? Yes. Good to take camping, when listening to live sport broadcasts, when there is a blackout or when there is a natural event such as a cyclone or flood and you need to listen to emergency alerts.



7 THINK

What does this item tell us about life in the past? Some technologies were a lot bigger which meant they weren't as portable. Also some technologies which today do lots of jobs (think: smart phone) only did one job in the past.

How would your life be different if you had to use a transistor radio to listen to music instead of the technologies you use today?

IMAGE 1

