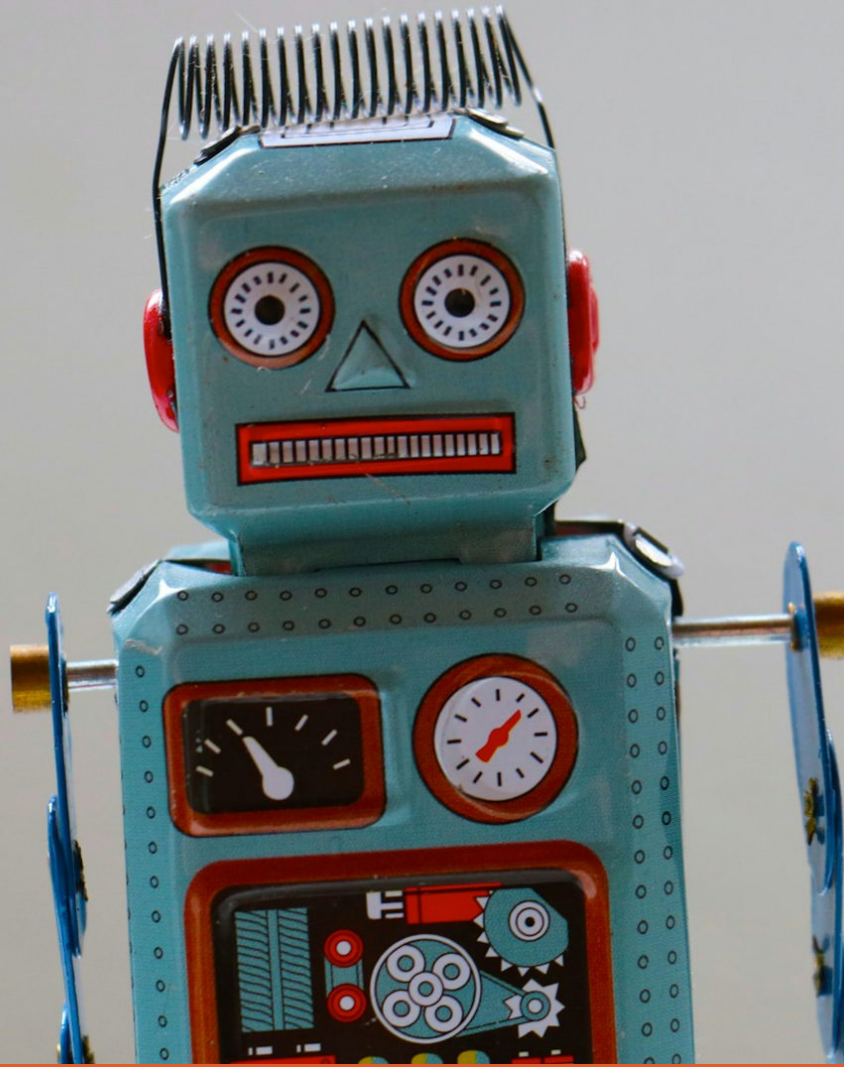




EduTrend Contents

P4C · TECHNOLOGY AND HUMANITY · PRIMARY

A Day Without Machines

Imagining life without technology

Ages 5–7

Level: Foundation

30 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 01

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 01 · AT A GLANCE

A Day Without Machines

Children look at picture cards of everyday machines: a kettle, a bicycle, a phone, a washing machine, a car and a torch. They imagine a day without any of them and act out how they would cook, travel and talk to family. Then they create questions and vote on one, such as “Do we need machines?”

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- name everyday machines;
- ask a question about technology;
- give a reason;
- listen to others.

KEY WORDS

machine · help · tool · invent · need
· change

CURRICULUM LINKS

Design and technology: tools and machines. History: life long ago.
Science: forces.

1

STIMULUS

Share something to think about

2

THINK

Quiet thinking time

3

QUESTION

Create and choose a question

4

ENQUIRE

Reason together

5

BUILD

Agree, disagree, add

6

REFLECT

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Machine picture cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 01 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–5 min Stimulus	Share the machine picture cards and imagine a day without them.	<i>“What did you notice?”</i>
5–12 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>“Which question is most interesting to talk about?”</i>
12–26 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other’s ideas.	<i>“Do we need machines?”</i>
26–30 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>“Has your thinking changed?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Say which machine you would miss most and why.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

People have made tools and machines for thousands of years to help with work and life.

Imagining life without them helps children see both the benefits and the costs of technology.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Machines only mean computers.” A bicycle is a machine too.
- “Life without machines would be impossible.” People lived without many of them.
- “Machines are always good.” They can cause problems too.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use three cards.

Stretch

Ask: which machine would you invent?

WORKSHEET 1

Without machines

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Draw and write.

Without machines

Machine	How I would manage without it

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Were people happier before machines? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Names machines	Gives a reason	Listens to others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

A Day Without Machines is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Technology and Humanity programme (primary, level: foundation). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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