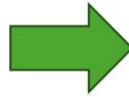
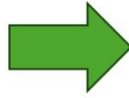


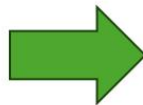
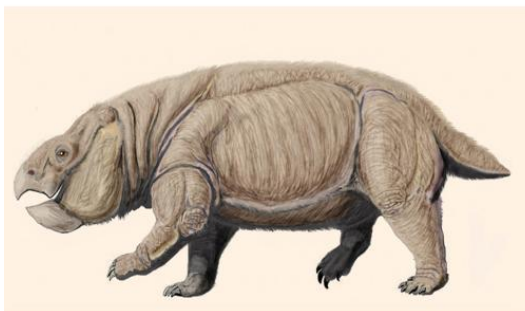
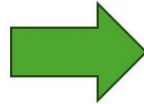
03.03.2025 British Science Week: Change and Adapt

Thinking time as the children entered the hall:

Thinking time: What do you think these animals evolved into?

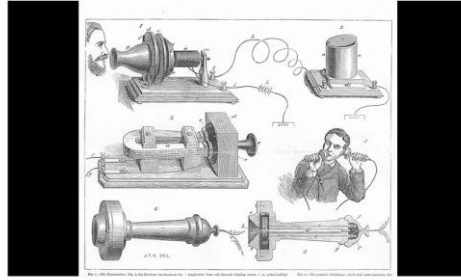


After eliciting the children's ideas – and just as importantly how they came to them – we revealed that that those animals had evolved into:



We discussed how these animals had changed and adapted over time to survive – the theme of British Science Week. We moved onto how humans have changed and adapted communication in just the last two centuries and talked through each of the following stages:

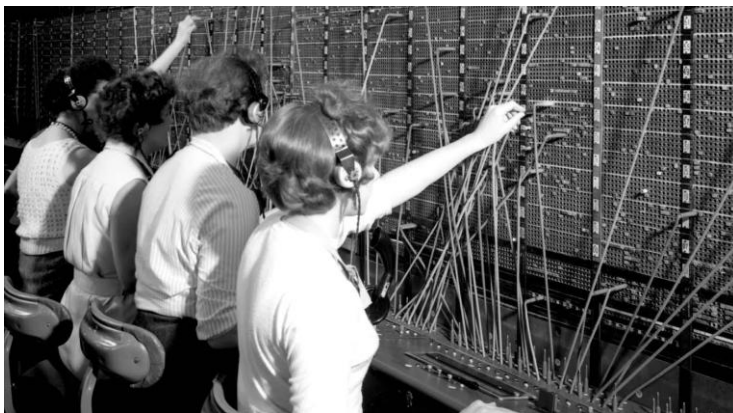
03.03.2025 British Science Week: Change and Adapt



Year: 1876

Inventor: Alexander Graham Bell

Key Innovation: The first practical telephone transmitted sound through electrical signals



The first 'networks' used operators to connect telephone calls using a series of plugs and wires. The caller would have to tell them the number they wanted to reach! We compared this to modern day satellites which give instant global connection.



The next big step came with the introduction of rotary telephones which didn't need operators, they went through a telephone exchange. These came in and made communication more accessible for all, not just the wealthy. We had one on the stage and a volunteer had a go at using it!



In 1973 Martin Cooper made the first mobile telephone call – to his business rival to tell him he'd won! We discussed the difference in this mobile phone to what we use today.

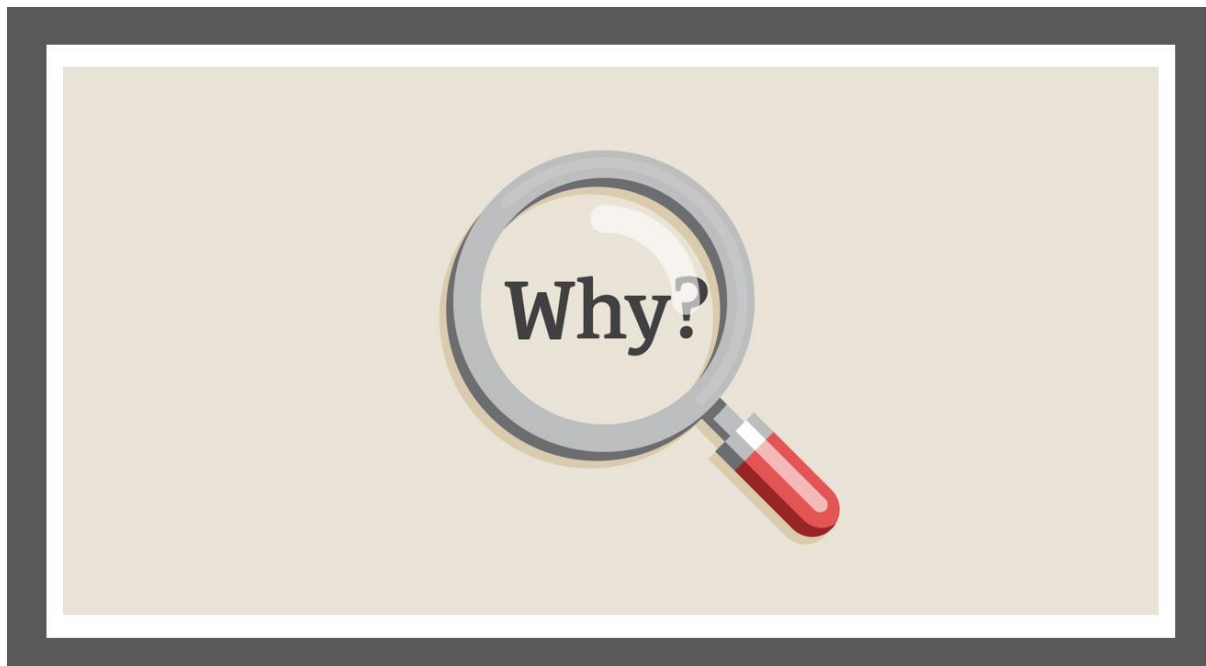
1973: First mobile call by Martin Cooper

03.03.2025 British Science Week: Change and Adapt

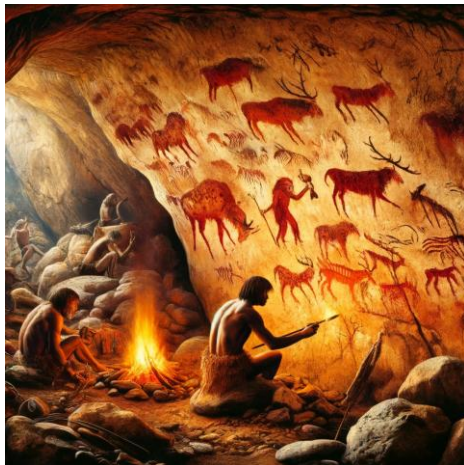
2007: iPhone launch
redefined
communication



But it was the iPhone 1 which changed everything for the mobile phone industry. An all-in-one with a touchscreen and internet access, it revolutionised communication and our experience!



The most important question I wanted the children to consider was **why?** Why have we evolved our methods of communication so rapidly? Why is communication important to the human race? We discussed all the children's ideas and then finished with this:



Early humans communicated to hunt, protect themselves and survive. From vocal sounds, cave paintings, and smoke signals, to the Caxton Press right through to the iPhone, humans have communicated to advance the species, cooperate, survive, share knowledge, build communities and progress. Communication is the glue that holds humanity together!

To finish we did the Cole and Mentos experiment on the stage.
The question was why did it happen?