

Technology & Transport

Electricity

The greatest invention of the nineteenth century was electricity. Only the rich could afford it so most used gas for heating and lighting. Sydney began using electric street lights in 1904.

Telephones

The first telephones were introduced in Sydney in 1880. Until 1914 phone calls had to be connected manually by an operator.

Melbourne and Sydney were first connected by telephone in 1907.

Radio

Radios, also known as “the wireless” were invented in 1895 and at first could only be used for short distances. Communication would occur through Morse code. The first long distance communication via radio in Australia occurred in 1905 between Tasmania and Victoria.

The gramophone (an early record player) was the popular item for music and sound, however the radio took over popularity in the 1920s.

Transport

Horses, carts and bicycles were the common form of transport.

Trains were used in the outer suburbs of New South Wales, however in the city of Sydney trams were used. Trams were originally introduced in Melbourne in 1885.

In 1887 the first motorcar was driven in Australia. It had a top speed of 16km/h. At first cars were only affordable by the wealthy, however by 1910 cars were so numerous in Australia that the government introduced driver licenses and motor vehicle registration. Brakes were also introduced during this time.



SOURCE ANALYSIS

Complete these questions in your Workbook.

What features of the car stand out?

What do you notice about the people in the car?

What features of the modern car are missing?