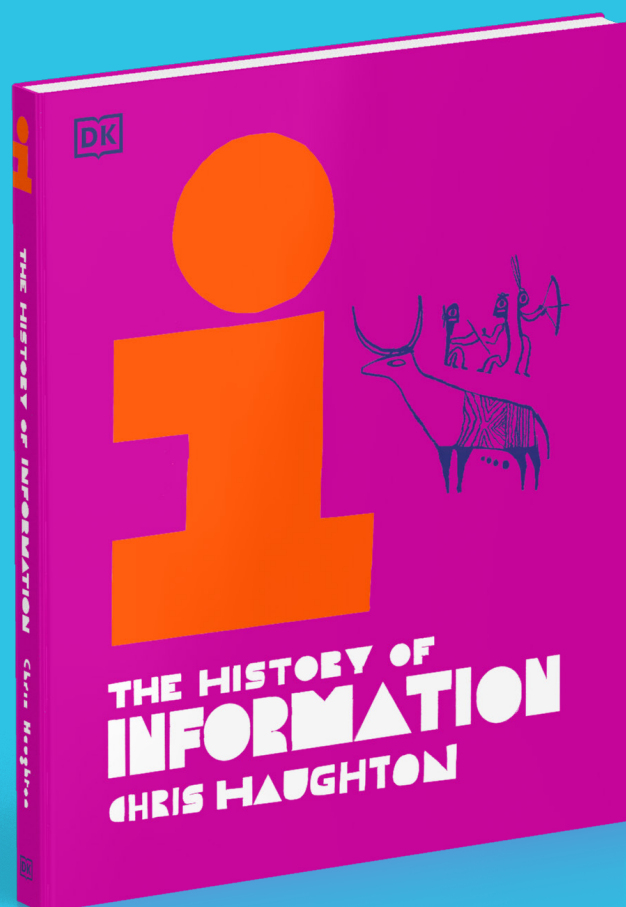


THE HISTORY OF INFORMATION

Activity Pack



Written and
illustrated by
Chris Haughton



The History of Information by Chris Haughton is the first nonfiction book by this award-winning author and illustrator and explores how humans learned how to communicate, record, and share information so that more of it can be passed to the next generation.

Information could accumulate like a giant snowball rolling downhill!

Accompanying the book, this activity pack for kids ages 8+ features fun and creative activities to learn about the epic history of information, information literacy, and how human invention has changed the manner in which we share knowledge.

HC ISBN: 9780744091915
(also available in ebook)



Let's take a fun quiz and learn about the incredible history of information. Look through *The History of Information* to find the answers.

The earliest known drawing in the world was a depiction of a wild pig in Indonesia. This drawing is _____ years old.

- A) 150
- B) 1,000
- C) 30,000
- D) 45,000+

Before writing, all information had to be remembered and passed on “orally,” using only spoken language.

- A) True
- B) False

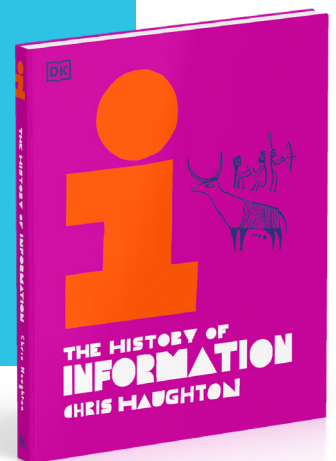
A few centuries ago, a new idea of owning information emerged. The copyright symbol was introduced in 1909 to protect original works. Which is the copyright symbol?

- A) #
- B) &
- C) ©
- D) @

The first computer virus was designed to travel from computer to computer, displaying a message that said “catch me if you can.” This 1969 virus was called the _____.

- A) Rocket Ship
- B) Creeper Worm
- C) World Wide Web
- D) Disinformation Train

Answer Key: D (page 20), A (page 30), C (page 79), B (page 124)



Comic Strip Time Machine

Hop into your time machine and draw an epic timeline of information! From paintings on cave walls to texting on smartphones, bring each comic panel to life with your most creative and comic-worthy illustrations.

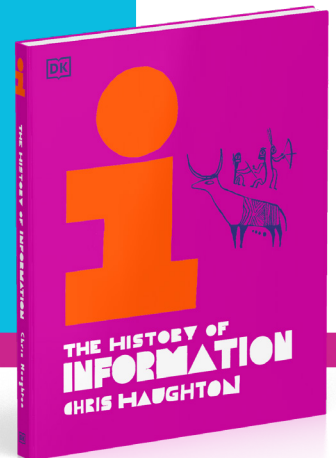
Cave paintings

Invention of writing

Computers and smartphones

Newspapers and radio

Artificial intelligence



Famous Figures' Feeds

Choose an historical figure, draw their social media post, and write a caption that would break the Internet. You can even add their friends list! Think Albert Einstein's bad hair day, Jane Austen's writing update, Marie Curie's science experiments...

RetroGram



2024

20 Comments

21 Shares



Like



Comment



Share

FRIENDS



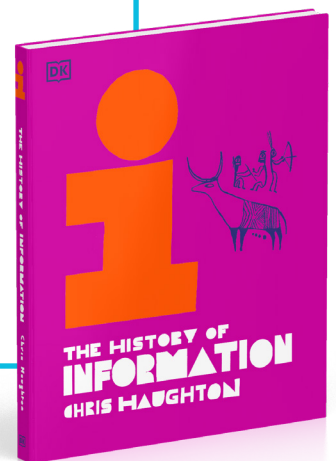
Invent-a-Tool Workshop

The epigraph of *The History of Information* is a quote by Marshall McLuhan: “First we shape the tools then the tools shape us.” Whether you’ve talked on a cellphone, listened to the radio, or chatted with artificial intelligence, you use technology in your everyday life to communicate and learn new knowledge.

Now, it’s your turn to invent a tool that people can use. Maybe it’s a talking hologram, a telepathic machine, or something even wackier! Design your information gadget, and draw it below.



An epigraph is a short quotation at the beginning of a book that suggests its theme.



Message Mix-up

When information is passed from source to source, it can often change or become muddled. This is why **INFORMATION LITERACY** is important—it helps you check if the information you see, hear, or share is spot on. To see how messages can get jumbled, try playing the game of Telephone.

Here's how to play:

- 1) **Get Your Group:** Gather a few friends and sit in a line.
- 2) **Whisper the Message:** The first person thinks of a short message and whispers it quietly into the ear of the person next to them.
- 3) **Pass It On:** Each person then whispers what they heard to the next person in line. No repeating or clarifying allowed!
- 4) **Reveal the Message:** When the message reaches the last person, they say it out loud.

Discussion Questions

- 1) Have you ever heard a story from someone that was different from how you remembered it?
- 2) Why do messages get jumbled when passed along?
- 3) Why is information literacy and fact-checking important?
- 4) Imagine you're a detective—how would you find out if a story is true or not?
- 5) How do you think the internet changed the way we share and find information?

Note to the Grown-up

The History of Information explores innovations in human communication and is an excellent tool for teaching information literacy. The book illustrates how information has been preserved and passed down through the ages, while also highlighting how misinformation can spread. This underscores the importance of sticking close to primary sources and fact-checking information.

