

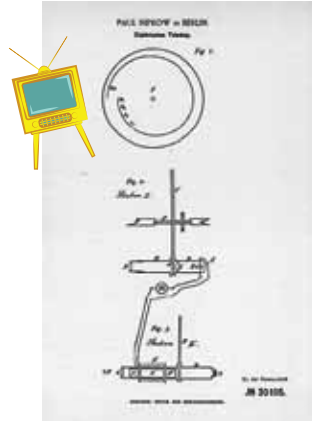
INVENTIONS SERIES 3:

# THE TELEVISION

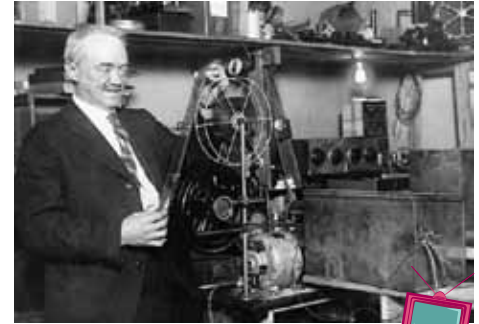
Television has become a huge part of our everyday life. It provides entertainment, news, advertisements and so much more for people of all ages. The television was not invented by just one person; many people throughout history contributed ideas and inventions to make TV what it is today.

Over time people experimented with the idea of mixing electricity and radio to see what would happen. This was the starting point and the beginning of the invention of television. During the late 1800s, Paul Gottlieb Nipkow, a student in Germany created the very first device to transmit pictures with light. He did this by sending pictures through wires which rotated on a metal disk. This was called the "electric scope." Inspired by Nipkow, an American inventor called Charles Jenkins invented the first *mechanical* television system in 1923. He called this device "Radiovision," which he preferred over the name television. It was known to have poor reception and a 40 to 48 line picture that tended to be cloudy. Jenkins publicly performed his first television broadcast in Anacostia, Virginia all the way to Washington only a couple years after. In 1926, A British inventor named John Logie Baird transmitted the first moving pictures through the same mechanical disks that Nipkow had experimented with. This was followed by the very first TV studio which was located at the Crystal Palace in London. He used *transparent* rods and reflected light rather than back-lighting silhouettes.

Philo Taylor Farnsworth created the first electronic television system which got rid of the metal rotating disks. By 1934 all the televisions sets had been converted to electronic device, which is what we are still using to this day. Black and white TV was the standard, with color television showing up much later. RCA was the founder of color television and had its first broadcast on December 17, 1953. These progressions in modern television set up the foundation for the plasma and HDTV screens you see today!



Nipkow's "electric scope" was the first device to transmit pictures, in the late 1800s.



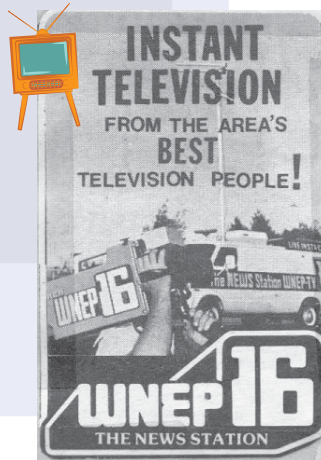
The very first mechanical television, invented by Charles Jenkins in 1923.

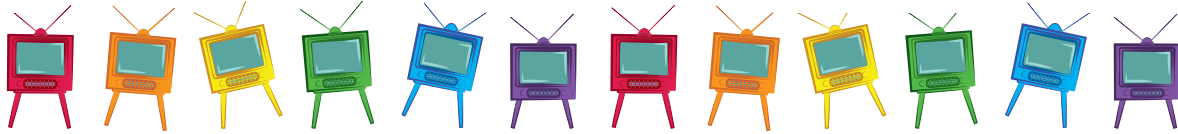


Philo Taylor Farnsworth's invention of the very first electrical television.



Baird used reflective light rather than back-lighting on his version of the television in 1926.





**VOCAB:**

**Mechanical** - working or produced by machinery

**Electronic** - having or operating with the aid of many small components, esp. microchips and transistors, that control and direct an electric current:

**COMPREHENSION:**

Who was the first person to create mechanical television? In what year?

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Do you think the invention of television was a positive or negative occurrence? Write one paragraph on how TV has helped or hurt society today...

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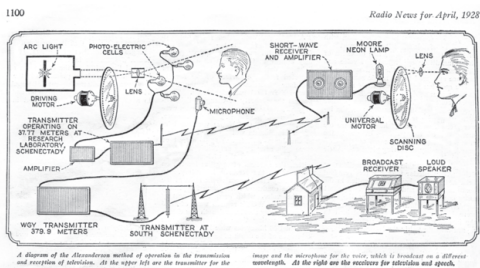
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**FUN FACT:**

Did you know that in 1953 Ray Bradbury, wrote *Fahrenheit 451*, where his world banned books and people watch "parlor walls" where televisions dominated.



**COLOR:**

If you had your own television channel, what types of programs would you show? The news, sitcoms, or maybe concerts... the possibilities are endless! Color this TV set to show what your channel would be like.

