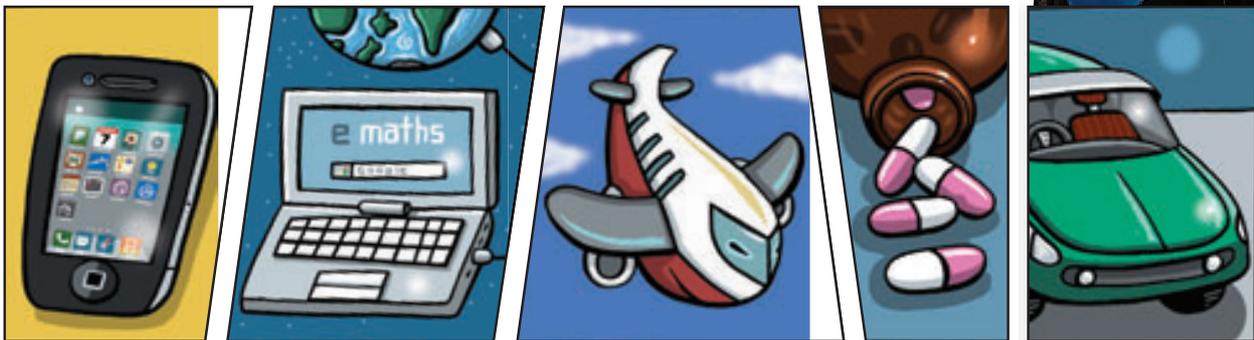# A Changing World

TECHNOLOGY Technological progress changes the way that people live and interact. The impact of technology can be both positive and negative.

Activity One

Ben's class visited a museum yesterday. Today they are discussing some of the discoveries and inventions that they saw. Their teacher sets them a task.

1.

In your groups, choose 5 discoveries or inventions that you think have changed our world. Then rank them in order of impact, with 1 being the most and 5 the least.

Here are the rankings from Ben's group:

Rankings of Inventions/Discoveries	Cellphone	Internet	Aeroplane	Antibiotics	Car
Ben	2	1	5	4	3
Becky	5	3	2	1	4
Susie	1	2	5	4	3
Quinten	5	3	2	1	4
Taylah	4	3	5	1	2

a. Which discovery or invention has the most first-place rankings?

b. According to Ben's group, has the cellphone had more impact than the car? Explain your answer.

c. Using these rankings, put the items in order from the one that, overall, the group thinks has had the most impact to the one that they think has had the least impact. Justify your method.

Rankings put items in order.
Ratings can give the same value to several items in a set.

2. Form a group of five classmates. On a table, record each person's rankings of the five items. Compare and discuss your rankings.
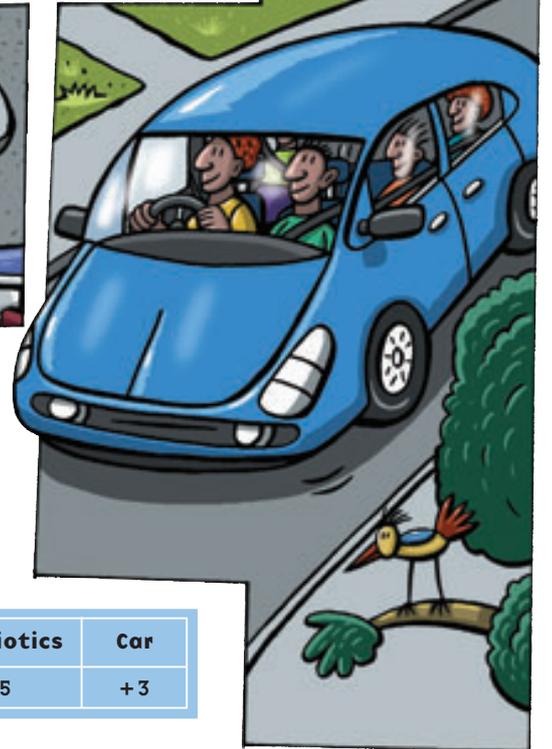
Activity Two

Impact can be positive or negative. Aeroplanes are noisy when they take off, but they are great for fast travel!

Ben's group then made a table of ratings, using ☺ if they thought that the discovery or invention was mostly a good thing (positive), 😐 if it was sometimes good and sometimes bad (neutral), and ☹ if it was mostly bad (negative).

Ratings of Inventions/Discoveries

	Cellphone	Internet	Aeroplane	Antibiotics	Car
Ben	😐	☺	😐	☺	😐
Becky	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺
Susie	☺	☹	☺	☺	☺
Quinten	☺	😐	☺	☺	☺
Taylah	☺	☺	☺	😐	☺

1. Compare this table with the group's first one. Discuss the differences between the two tables.

2. Ben used his group's ☺, 😐, and ☹ ratings to make this summary table:

Summary of Ratings

	Cellphone	Internet	Aeroplane	Antibiotics	Car
	+4	+2	+3	+5	+3

a. What method do you think Ben used?

b. i. What advantages does the summary table have compared with the faces table?
   ii. What information from the faces table is missing from the summary table?

c. i. What other method could Ben have used to summarise the ratings?
   ii. How would this method change the results?

Focus   Interpreting statistical information