

THE EVOLUTION OF TECHNOLOGY

Designed for Students
Grades 6th-12th
Ages 11-19

Program Length
3 hours

Park Location
Epcot®

SYNOPSIS

Future World is a showcase for the best future thinking in the realms of design, technology communications, transportation and more! This big idea land within Epcot® offers students an opportunity to explore the influences that impact the developmental progress of technology.

Setting the stage for the learning experience are activities and guided discussions that allow for an examination of the evolutionary nature of technology, its drivers and how it is used in their lives.

A model of a fictional technology innovation introduces four key factors: society, level of technology, government, and economics as influences in breakthrough technological development. Students further come to understand that the balance of these four factors are precarious and discover just how much they can impact technology's progression. An exploration of a select attraction provides real-world examples of the far-reaching effects of the four key factors.

Through a mathematical activity and an attraction experience, students examine how the level of available technology influences technological change. These experiences allow students to deduce that the tools and technology available to a society affect the discoveries, inventions, and exploration that can be accomplished.

A final select attraction provides students with an opportunity to discover how advancements in technology have enabled humankind to progress beyond images on a cave wall to sophisticated systems that allowed the conception of revolutionary ideas and solutions. Students are called to action to consider the role they play in determining the success or failure of technology.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing The Evolution of Technology, participants will be able to:

- ✓ Describe technology and determine evolving technology as being the result of accumulated knowledge
- ✓ Connect that the wants and needs of society influence changes in technology
- ✓ Apply the role of mathematics in the development of technology
- ✓ Assess the influence of the level of available technology on technological change
- ✓ Determine the impacts of governments on the development of technology and ways in which social and economic forces influence which technologies will be developed and used