Technology
Chapter 1: Technology: A Dynamic, Human System—Terms and Definitions

Artifacts: objects made by humans.

Bronze Age: the stage in human history that took place after the Stone Age. During this time, farming developed, villages and towns started to appear, and copper and copper-based metal tools replaced stone tools.

Civilized conditions: societies in which humans make tools, grow crops, engineer materials, and develop transportation systems.

Development: the work technologists do by building products and structures to make lives better.

Dynamic process: a process that is constantly changing or causing change.

Humanities: a type of knowledge that describes the relationships between and among groups of people.

Industrial Revolution: the historical period from 1750 to 1850, when tremendous changes in technology occurred. Many machines and devices were invented, including the steam engine and the telegraph.

Information Age: occurring after the Industrial Revolution, this time period places most importance on information processing and cooperative working relations between production workers and managers.

Iron Age: the historical period beginning around 1200 B.C. During this period, iron and steel became the primary materials for tools. Trade, transportation, and communication all improved, and civilization expanded.

Middle Ages: the historical period beginning around 400 A.D. It is known for its various upheavals, as tribes continually fought each other for territory, but technology still progressed. One of the major inventions of this time was printing from movable type, developed by Johann Gutenberg in 1445.

Primitive conditions: conditions determined by nature. Primitive societies were dependent on nature to provide food, shelter, and clothing.

Profit: the amount of money left over after all the expenses of a business have been paid.

Renaissance: the historical period that began in the early 1300s in Italy and lasted until 1600. This period is known for new ideas in art, literature, history, and political science, but technological developments, such as the calculator and the telescope, also occurred.

Research: the work scientists do by gathering information to try to explain why something exists or happens in a certain way.

Science: knowledge of the natural world.

Stone Age: the earliest period in history. First, simple stone tools were used to cut and pound vegetables and cut meat from animal carcasses; later, pointed stone hunting tools were developed. Humans also learned how to harness fire for heating, cooking, and protection.

Technologically literate: having the understanding and ability to direct new technology.