



Toasters Through Time

READ:

Have you ever toasted your own bread? Do you have an idea how easy or hard it is to make toast? Today, it is easy to make toast with a toaster, but that hasn't always been true. For over 200 years people have tried different methods to toast bread. Inventors built on one another's ideas to continue to improve how we make toast. In 2020 approximately 17.4 million toasters will be sold in the United States. Discover the amazing history of toast through a timeline challenge. Then, share your own ideas for improving the toaster.

DO:

- **Look** at the Toaster: Then and Now diagram. Write what you notice about each toaster underneath the photo. Write what they have in common in the middle. If you have a toaster at home use that instead of the photograph!
- **Cut out** the Toaster Timeline entries. Read them over and then arrange them in order from the earliest to the most recent Check your answers and rearrange if you need to.
- **Make** your timeline into a banner you can hang up! Tape or glue the entries to a ribbon or string.
- **Update** the toaster! Use the blank box to draw or write how you would improve the toaster for the future. Make it the last entry on your timeline.

Approx. Time: 30—45 minutes

Materials:

- ⇒ Toaster: Then and Now
- ⇒ Toaster Timeline
- ⇒ Scissors
- ⇒ Tape or glue (optional)
- ⇒ Ribbon or string (optional)

SHARE:

- **Talk** about toaster history with your family. Which timeline entry is most important to you? Why? Do you think the toaster is a great invention? Why or why not?
- **Hang** your timeline banner at home for all to see!
- **Post** a picture of your Toaster: Then and Now diagram, timeline, and updated toaster on social media with the hashtag #CHMatHomeFamilies!



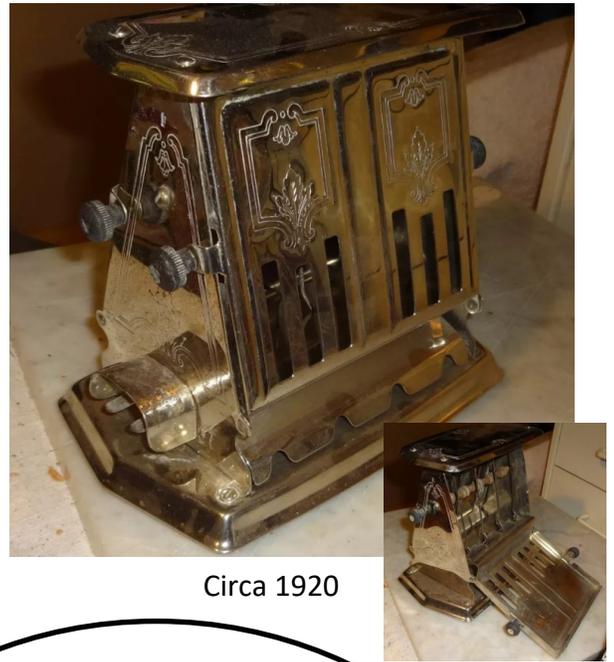
Sunbeam Toaster Ad ICHI-173754

Toaster: Then and Now Diagram

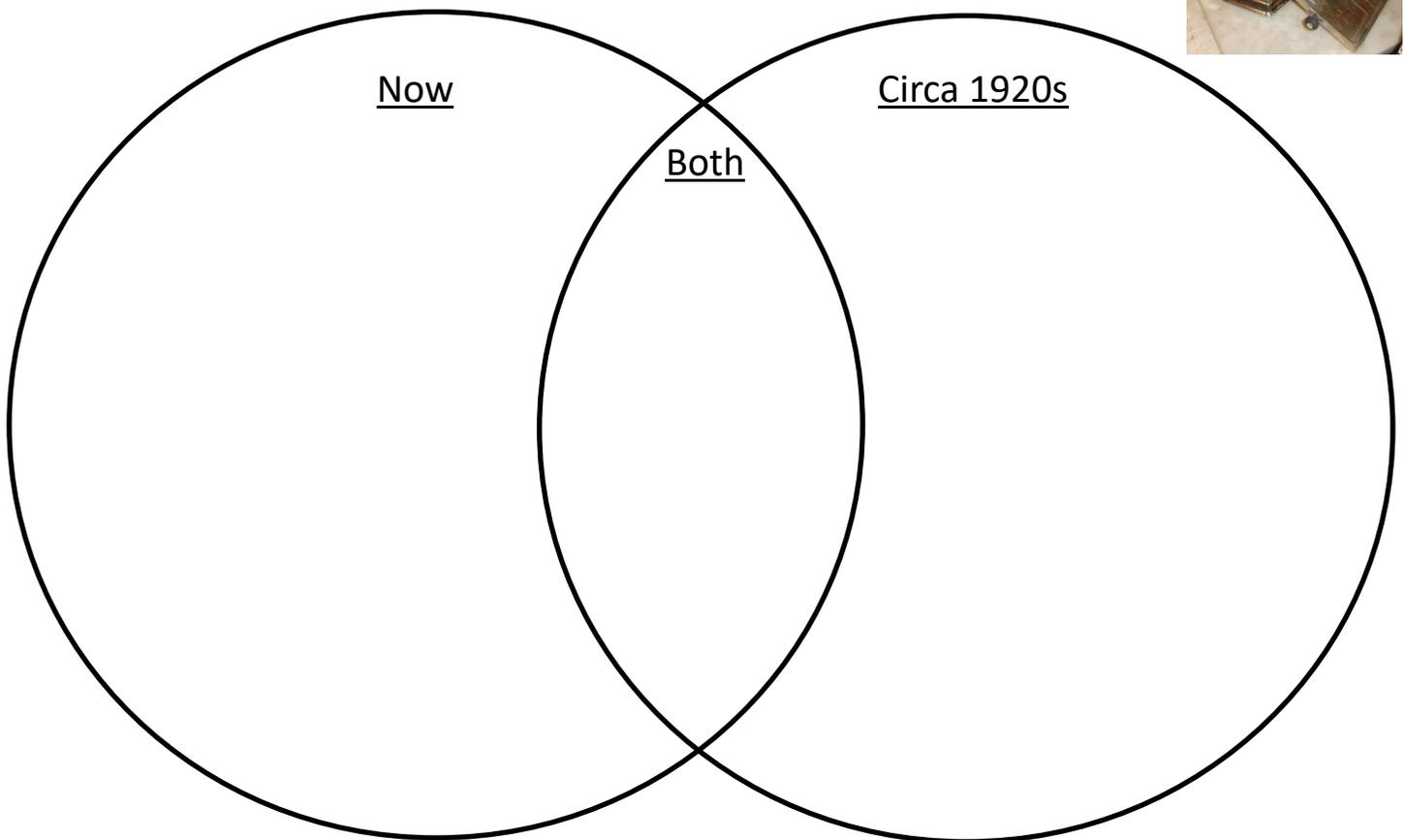
Take a close look at the picture of each toaster. Write down the details you notice in the cricles underneath the pictures. In the middle, write down what they have in common.



Now



Circa 1920



Toaster: Then and Now Timeline

Cut out the timeline entries on the dotted lines and organize them in time order. There are two pages of entries.

The toaster oven first introduced in 1914, may have taken up more space in the kitchen, but it could toast bigger things.

The Coleman Electric Stove Company made a toaster that had an automatic bread turner in 1913.

The first pop-up toaster was invented in 1919, by a Minnesota mechanic named Charles Strite. He originally made his toaster for restaurants, not home use.

A toaster with a glass “see through” window in the middle was sold in 2010.

In the 1970s toasters are available in more varieties of colors, so people could buy toasters to match their kitchens. Some were sold that could even toast images of famous movie characters, like Darth Vader from Star Wars, right into the bread!

The company General Electric built the first line of electric toasters for use in the home in 1909.

In 1905 a new metal coil was invented by Albert Marsh, which solved the heating problem.

Customers wanted to be able to easily toast thicker bread items such as bagels, so during the 1980’s toasters were made with wider slots.



Toaster: Then and Now Timeline Continued

The Continental Baking Company, which made Wonder Bread, began selling it sliced, instead of in solid loaves, around 1930. Now that pre-sliced bread with standard size slices was available all over the country, toaster sales increased.

Early toasters of the 1800's were made of iron frames that held bread and had long handles. The handle allowed people to stand safely back while they put the toast over an open fire.

In the 1850s open fire toasters started to be made of lighter weight kinds of metal. Design updates included models that folded over the bread and mesh grids that allowed people to see the bread as it toasted.

The first bread slicing machine was invented by Otto Frederick Rohwedder and was used at a bakery in Chillicothe, Missouri in 1928.

In 1926 Strite's pop up toaster was re-designed for home use and sold under the name Toastmaster.

2120. What features will the toaster have and what will it look like 100 years from now?

The first-ever electric toaster was invented by Alan MacMasters in 1893. It toasted only one side of the bread, so you had to flip the bread over. His model also had a problem with the heating coils.

During the 1960s, toaster prices become more affordable and designs became smaller so that toasters didn't take up too much counter space.



SPOILERS Toaster: Then and Now Timeline

1.	Early toasters of the 1800's were made of iron frames that held bread and had long handles. The handle allowed people to stand safely back while they put the toast over an open fire.
2.	In the 1850s open fire toasters started to be made of lighter weight kinds of metal. Design updates included models that folded over the bread and mesh grids that allowed people to see the bread as it toasted.
3.	The first-ever electric toaster was invented by Alan MacMasters in 1893. It toasted only one side of the bread, so you had to flip the bread over. His model also had a problem with the heating coils.
4.	In 1905 a new metal coil was invented by Albert Marsh, which solved the heating problem.
5.	The company General Electric built the first line of electric toasters for use in the home in 1909.
6.	The Coleman Electric Stove Company made a toaster that had an automatic bread turner in 1913.
7.	The toaster oven first introduced in 1914, may have taken up more space in the kitchen, but it could toast bigger things.
8.	The first pop-up toaster was invented in 1919, by a Minnesota mechanic named Charles Strite. He originally made his toaster for restaurants, not home use.
9.	In 1926 Strite's pop up toaster was re-designed for home use and sold under the name Toastmaster.
10.	The first bread slicing machine was invented by Otto Frederick Rohwedder and was used at a bakery in Chillicothe, Missouri in 1928.

SPOILERS Toaster: Then and Now Timeline

2120. What features will the toaster have and what will it look like 100 years from now?	
15. A toaster with a glass "see through" window in the middle was sold in 2010.	
14. Customers wanted to be able to easily toast thicker bread items such as bagels, so during the 1980's toasters were made with wider slots.	
13. In the 1970s toasters are available in more varieties of colors, so people could buy toasters to match their kitchens. Some were sold that could even toast images of famous movie characters, like Darth Vader from Star Wars, right into the bread!	
12. During the 1960s, toaster prices become more affordable and designs became smaller so that toasters didn't take up too much counter space.	
11. The Continental Baking Company, which made Wonder Bread, began selling it sliced, instead of in solid loaves, around 1930. Now that pre-sliced bread with standard size slices was available all over the country, toaster sales increased.	