

Visiting Machinery Hall

Experience the Centennial Exhibition yourself, just as most people did, even in 1876—through print! Explore Machinery Hall and see how industry was already changing the world.



Don't forget your ticket!

Instructions:

- Use the following link to access *The Illustrated History of the Centennial Exhibition* by James Dabney McCabe, published in 1876: <https://library.si.edu/digital-library/book/illustratedhist00mcca>
- Use the slider at the bottom of the screen to navigate between pages 470-520.
- Flip through the chapter, paying special attention to the images. Select one of the machines that interests you.

Teachers: have students work in pairs or individually to select different machines for comparison.



Click the link above to step inside Machinery Hall and have a look around!

Consider the following questions. You might find some of the answers in the text, but you will have to use context clues and your imagination to solve some of the others.

1. Which machine did you pick, and why?

2. What raw materials does it need, and what does it produce? Does it replace an old product, or does it make the same thing in a different way?

3. What kind of workers are needed to operate the machine? How would it make the work better, or worse?

4. What kind of jobs would the machine have changed, or replaced? Would you rather work in the industry before your machine was invented, or after? Why?

5. If you were a consumer in 1876, do you think the new product would be better or worse than the old one?

6. How else would your machine change life in the late nineteenth century?

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