



CultureBound
MAGAZINE

Culture in Entertainment

How do we spend our free time? What media platforms do we use the most?

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CultureBound offers courses that are educational and entertaining! It's fun to learn about cultures with us.

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Myths tell us what people hope for in life, what they fear, and what they desire and strive for.



The Root of Entertainment

Dr. Terry Steele, Ph. D., Dr. of Missiology

Myths are a product of human cultures. Often fanciful and grand in scope, myths define how humans see reality in principle or how we desire reality to be. Myths from different people groups explain how their version of the world works. A myth is not necessarily a made-up story, but a way of explaining how reality came to be, how humans got here, where they are going, and what is the purpose of their existence.

The entertainment industry has become the creators of modern myths. All the necessary ingredients for myths can be found in our movies, streaming and television series, books, and video games. For example, Japanese anime, manga and JRPGs express ideas from Japanese myths like Kaijou, heroes of honor, and the crossover of the natural and supernatural. What are the major themes of entertainment that can be seen in stories across cultures? Creation is a universal story, as is the birth of man and woman. Almost every culture has a flood story, like Noah or the



Gilgamesh Epic. The other myth that is universal is the separation from deity story. Be it stealing from the gods, opening a forbidden box or eating a prohibited fruit, all cultures and most religions acknowledge the world is broken due to the actions of humans that broke relationship with our creator or creators. What are the major themes in modern entertainment? What do these stories indicate about how we see the world or our relationship with God? Do we see any of these themes in entertainment today?

Myths and modern entertainment can also be instructive in addressing underlying moral principles in a culture. The American tale of their first president, George Washington, as a child chopping down a cherry tree instructs Americans of the value of honesty. Modern stories like John Wick tell of becoming a better person, loyalty, and protection of innocents.

Myths tell us what people hope for in life, what they fear, and what they desire and strive for. For example, superhero stories seem to be in abundance since the 2010s. We love to hear of the hero

rising from nothing or difficult circumstances; we even like to hear of the all-powerful being finding their humanity and learning to be gentle and protective of other humans. As with the stories of Thor, Hercules, Captain America, and Superman, we look for the protectors of humanity because so often we feel small as humans, subject to the forces of nature - earthquakes, storms, volcanoes, and the unknown. Another example is the popularity of zombie movies; however, rather than zombies being created from supernatural activities, these undead creatures are those infected by biological horrors. Sometimes life imitates art.

What, then, are the stories and myths we are drawn to? Why are we drawn to them? What do these stories tell us about our view of the world? What do they tell us about our view of our relationship with God? While most religions seek to find a way to reconcile with God or gods on the basis of human actions, the faith of the Bible is the only story in which God reaches down to reconcile humans to Him. That is a story worth telling the world about.

¹ The young George Washington was confronted by his father about the cherry tree. George responded, "I cannot tell a lie. I am the one who did it."

The Good Ol Days

When we consider the topic of entertainment, we usually take for granted the progress that has been made. As we scroll on social media, we aren't thinking about days gone by when social media did not exist.

It may seem crazy now to consider not having the technology we have. This begs a few questions - what did our ancestors do to pass the time? What were popular forms of entertainment? What forms of media have stood the test of time?





It's safe to say that before the invention of technology, families spent much more time together. When we aren't distracted by our own mobile devices, we are more free to interact with those around us.

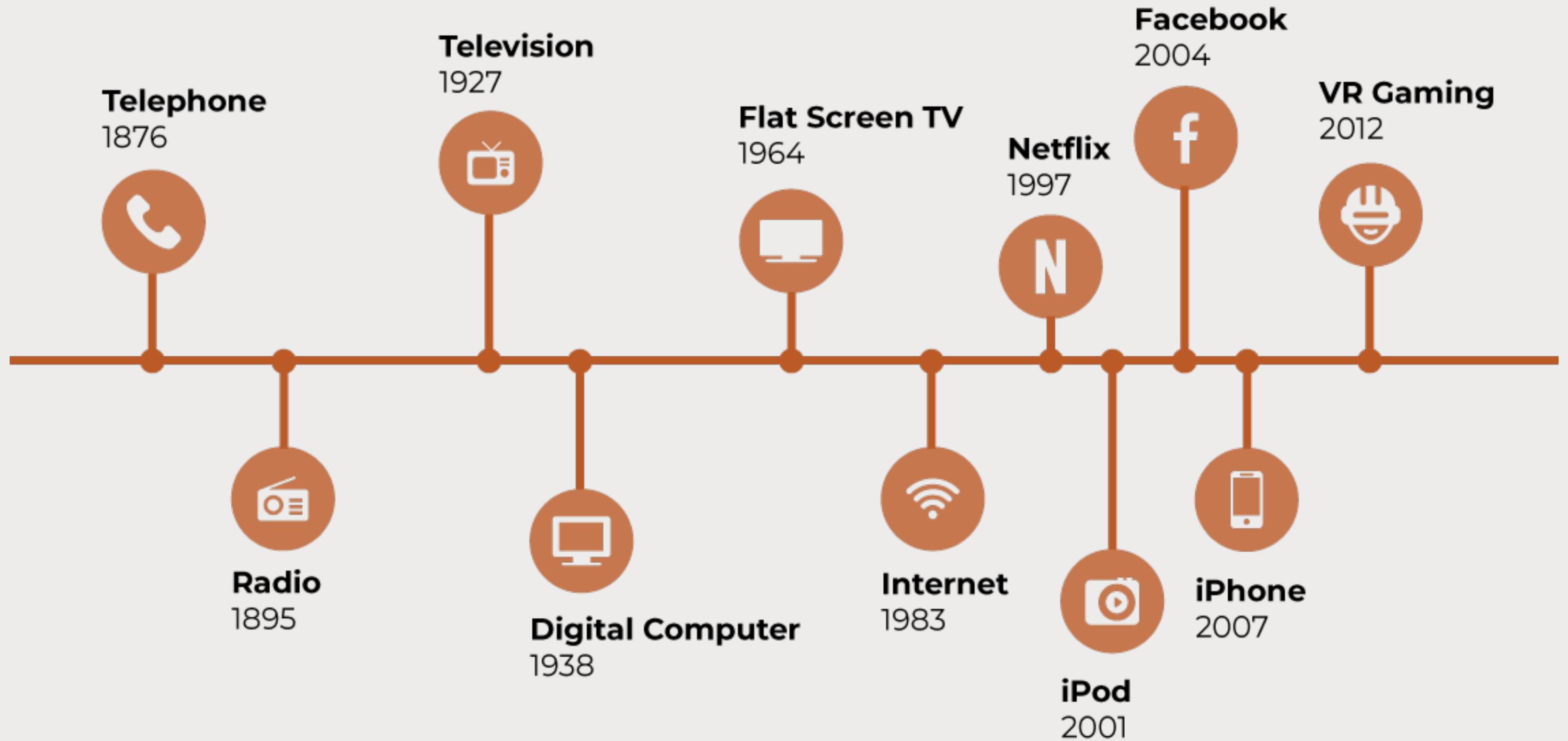
The most consistent forms of technology in the past century have been television and radio. The way these were consumed, however, is different. Today most people choose from a plethora of streaming options and may watch a show or movie on their own in their free time. In the past, there was more of an emphasis on watching television as a family. There were also much less options.

The weight that we currently place on social media is something that older generations may not fully understand. While it makes connecting with friends and family much easier, we can acknowledge that face-to-face interactions have greatly decreased. This is something that can be seen as a negative side effect of progress.

As we discuss entertainment, we should recognize and appreciate the progress that has been made while also recognizing the trends from the past that fostered true connection and relationship. This ultimately will allow us to be thankful for what we have and the fun options that we can experience.

Metamorphosis of Media

With the invention of new technology comes the variety of entertainment options. Do you know when each of these was invented? These dates might surprise you! Take a look at how things have changed over time and consider the incredible metamorphosis of media.



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CultureBound + YOU

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and language with us!**

CultureBound courses are not your average lecture. We strive to diversify our formats to be engaging and interesting - and even entertaining! Take a look at the elements of our courses that will allow you the best learning environment.

Our cohort courses are fully online. We utilize training videos and worksheets. This keeps you engaged and not just passively learning. Our videos are not hours long. We have broken each lesson into a manageable time frame.





A unique feature of our cohorts is the ability to learn with peers. You will have a live discussion each day with the members of your class and our experienced professionals. Our CultureCourse teaches you the foundations of culture. Each day includes online video lessons, field trips to complete in your location, and training sessions with peer interaction. Our experienced trainers teach you lessons on relational theology, God's culture tree, forming a culturally appropriate ministry, and more. At the end of this approximately 30-hour course, you will receive a certificate of completion. CultureCourse is led by our executive director, Dr. Mark Hedinger, who draws on his experiences of living and working with cultures around the world.

**For more information or to register, visit our website!
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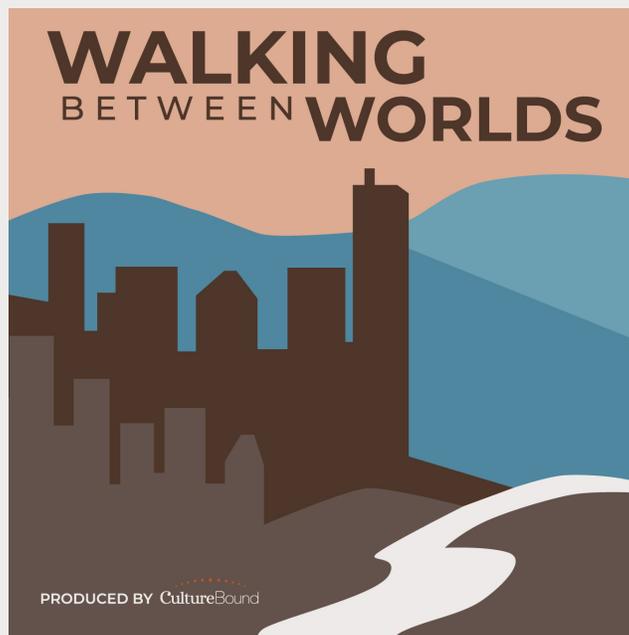
Our LanguageCourse teaches you how to learn a language. Each day includes online video lessons, working with a language helper, and live training sessions with peer interaction. This missions-specific course includes lessons on relational learning, knowing yourself as a language learner, listening comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, speaking, and more. At the end of this approximately 35-hour course, you will receive a certificate of completion. LanguageCourse is led by our Director of Language Acquisition, Dr. Karen Hedinger, who has also lived and taught across scores of cultures and languages.

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www.culturebound.org

 PO Box 16716, Portland, OR 97292 USA  503.235.3818  Info@CultureBound.org

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 CultureBoundDonorServices@tenfoldbpo.org