



VICTORY GARDENS

Lesson and Activity Suggestions for Grades 9-12

Impact on USA: WWII vs COVID-19



World War II had a major impact on the lives of Americans for years after the Allied victory. Many were positive and others not so much — the conclusion often depends on one’s personal opinion. Some examples are the increase of women in the work force, the move to the suburbs from large cities, increase in individual car ownership and use, and the invention of household appliances.

What do you think about each of those impacts on Americans? Positive or Negative? Why?

1. Put a check mark under positive or negative for each impact based on your opinion.
2. Make note of your reasoning in the last column.
3. Now, go ask an adult, preferably a grandparent or someone over the age of 60 what their answers would be.

Impact or Change in Americans’ Lives	Positive	Negative	Reasoning
Women in the workforce			
Move to suburbs from large cities			
Individual car ownership and use			
Invention of household appliances			

Cost of War

In this lesson, we are not focusing on **loss of American lives**, but instead the lasting impacts made on Americans' way of life. But if we do look at those numbers, there were 418,500 American lives lost during the four years of World War II, according to the World War II Museum. In the past three months, there have been 116,883 American lives lost to COVID-19, according to the [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for the dates February 1 - May 9, 2020. If we broke that down into an average number of deaths per month, it would equal 10,462 deaths/month in World War II versus 38,961 deaths/month due to COVID-19. If we do not find a way to stop this killer virus and it continues for the same length of time as World War II (40 months), we will see 1,558,449 lives lost.

We have yet to see what the end-results of our current war against COVID-19 will be, however, you can examine what impacts it has had so far, and speculate as to what the end-result might be if this continues for 40 months, the same length of time that Americans dealt with World War II. Use the chart below (it continues on the next page). Discuss your thoughts with your family to hear and consider different perspectives.

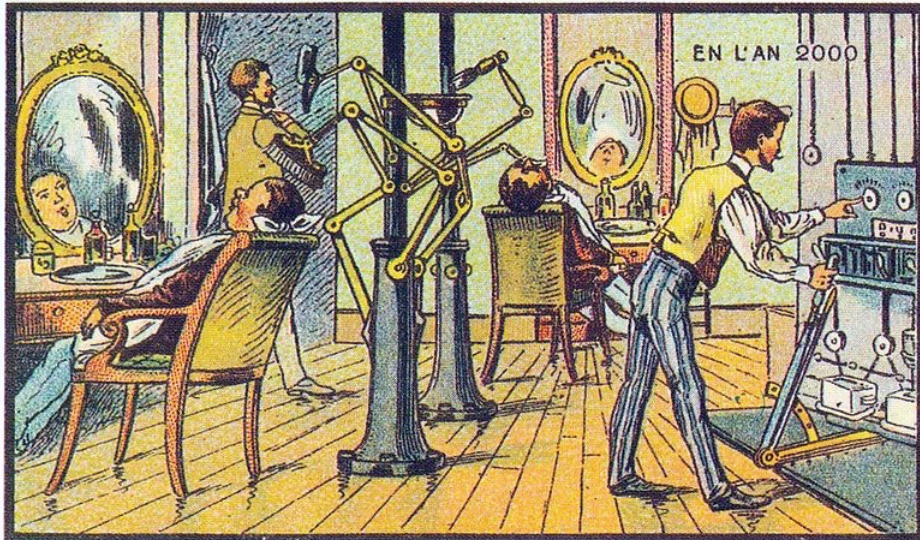
Area of impact or change on the U.S.	Impact from WWII on the U.S.	Impact so far from COVID-19 on the U.S.	Speculated impact from COVID-19 if it lasts for 40 months (until 6/1/2024).
Economy	A significant portion of the U.S. economy was shifted and new industries were created to meet war-time military needs. As millions of men and women entered the service and production boomed, unemployment virtually disappeared.	Significant amount of money will be used to help small businesses and laid-off employees survive the mandatory closures. Unemployment has hit record highs.	
Job Force	The need for labor opened up new opportunities for women and minorities. Millions of Americans left home to take jobs in war plants that sprang up around the nation.		

(Continued)

Area of impact or change on the U.S.	Impact from WWII on the U.S.	Current-day impact from COVID-19 on the U.S.	Speculated impact from COVID-19 if it lasts for 40 months (until 6/1/2024).
Schools and Education	Many students enlisted in the military or had to enter the work force to help support their families. Both of these options meant dropping out of school. One third of America's teachers also enlisted. Government funding was cut. Schools at War program started.		
Sports and Leisure	Many of the nation's top athletes between the ages of 18 and 35, both college and pro, were drafted. Some pro sports, like car-racing, were suspended for the needs of the war. President FDR chose to keep baseball going to help U.S. morale, but because so many men had volunteered or were drafted, a women's professional league was formed in 1943.		

Back to the Future

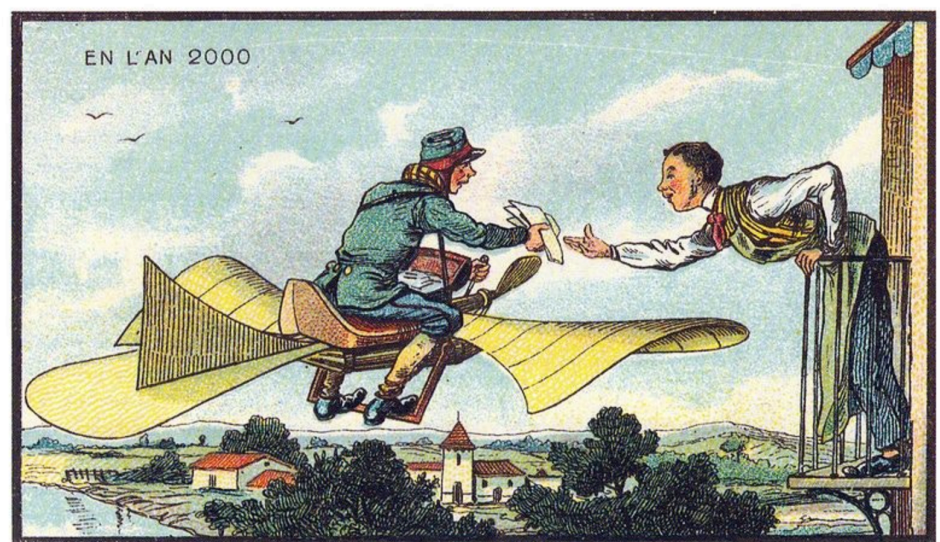
Predicting the future takes a combination of knowing the trends of the past, and using a little science-fiction imagination. Let's take a look at some illustrations from 1899 that predicted what life might be like in the year 2000. French artist, Jean-Marc Cote created these images for the 1900 World Exhibition in Paris. To see and learn more, go to <https://publicdomainreview.org/collection/a-19th-century-vision-of-the-year-2000>.



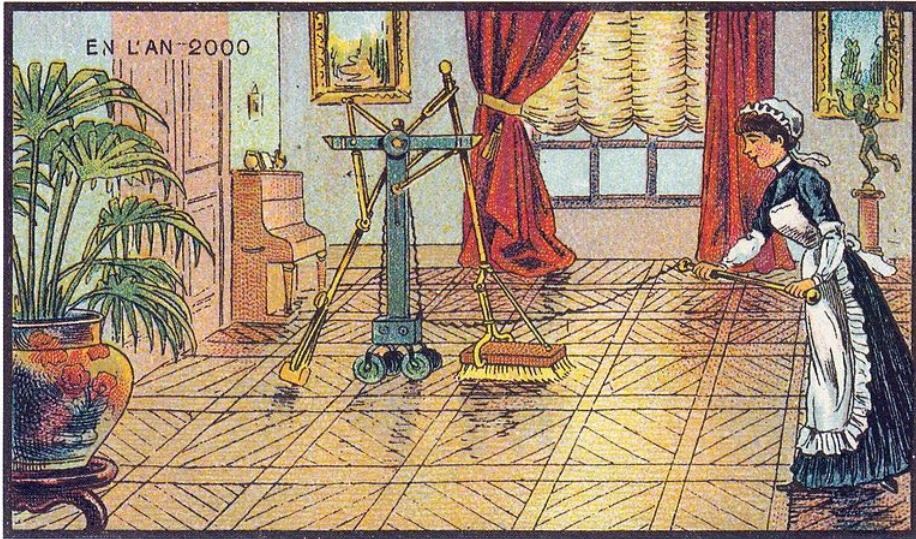
The New-Fangled Barber

Robot barbers? Yikes!

It's like mail delivery from a drone. What if you live in a basement?



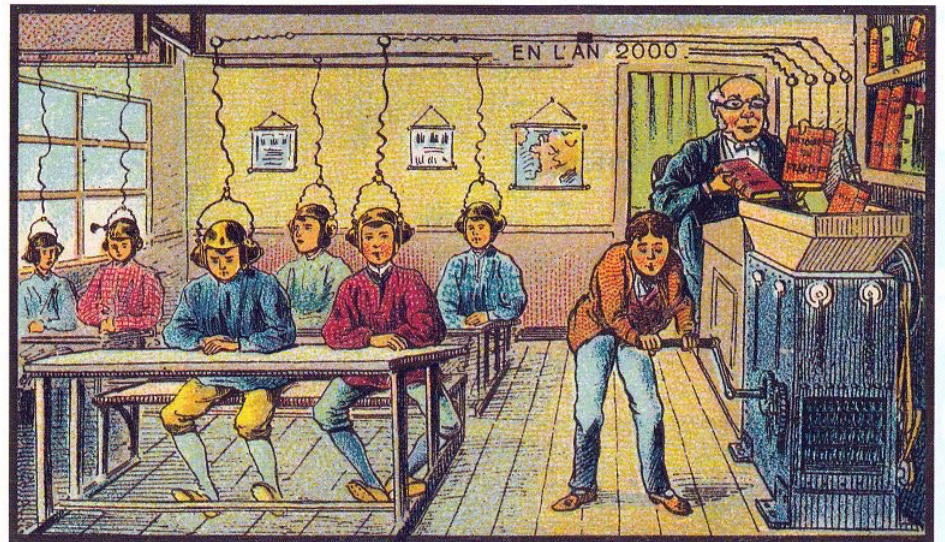
The Rural Postman



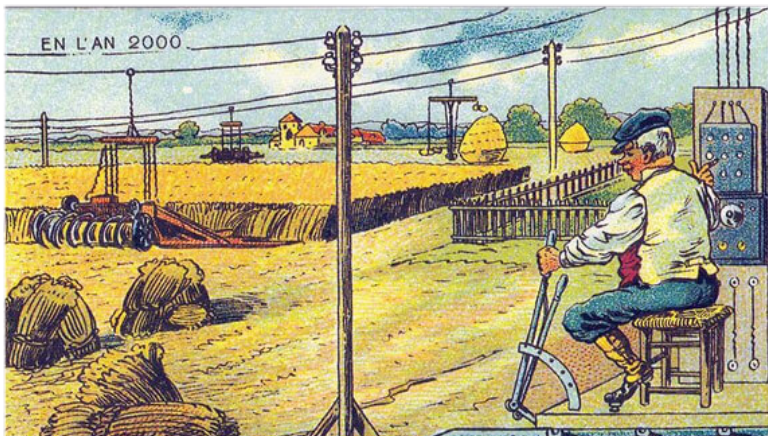
Electric Scrubbing

Roomba?

Grinding down school books to feed into your headphones? Isn't that kind of what the internet is doing?



At School

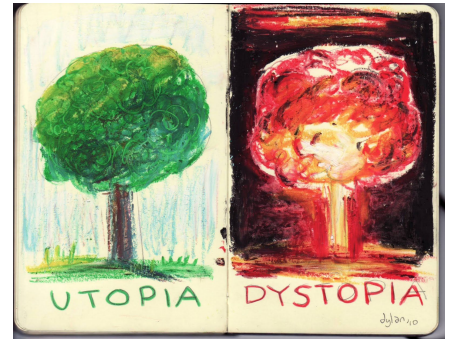


Robot tractors? We are almost there!

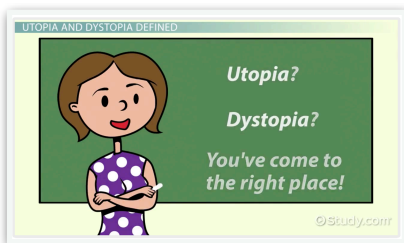
What If?

Speculative fiction is a genre that explores what might happen in the future depending on the different directions humanity could take, depending on its choices. Utopian novels portray an idyllic future society, while dystopian novels portray a negative outcome or setting of humanity.

Both explore social and political structures and theoretical exploration of cause-effect far into the future. That basically means that the author takes social and/or political events that are occurring today and speculate what society would be like if a cause and effect chain was imagined far into the future. For example, most of you are familiar with the *Hunger Games* or *Divergent* books (or movies). Those are speculative fiction with a dystopian angle. Dystopian fiction is

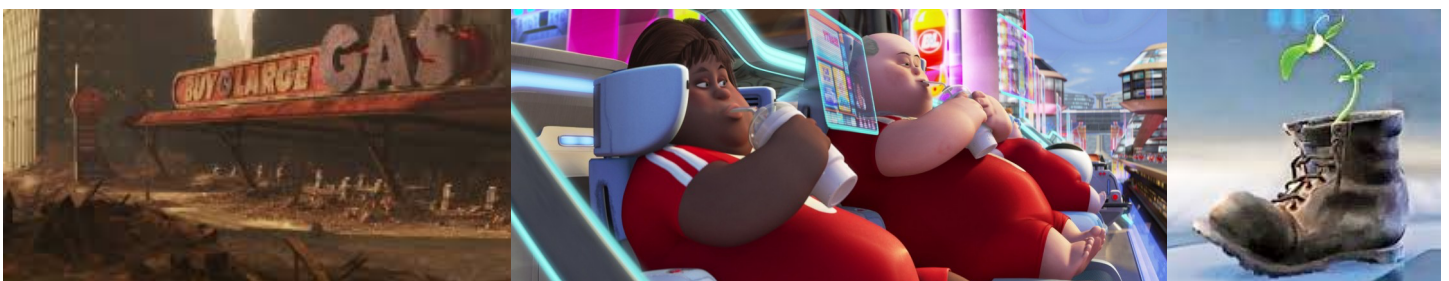


very popular right now! An example of the much less popular utopian fiction is *3001: The Final Odyssey* by Arthur C. Clarke. If you learn best through visuals, go to: <https://study.com/academy/lesson/utopia-dystopia-definition-characteristics-examples.html>.



The Pixar movie *WALL-E* is a great example of speculative fiction. Let's look at its cause-effect plot.

- The author started with a current day issue(s) of: consumerism, not taking care of the environment and Earth, passive lifestyles, dependency on technology
- The author then speculated on what might become of Earth and humans if these issues continue the path they are on.
 - ▶ What was the effect of humans' consumerism?
 - ▶ What was the effect of not taking care of the environment and Earth?
 - ▶ What was the effect of humans' passive lifestyles?
 - ▶ What was the effect of humans' dependency on technology?



Your Turn!

What if the stay at home order is escalated and enforced for 30 years? Use your imagination to describe what that world would be like. Think about how we get our food, where we work, how do we get medical treatment, what is school like? Will we be completely dependent on technology, or will we become more self-sufficient, living off the land like our Victory Garden or pioneering ancestors? Write about it, draw it, make a movie trailer — whatever way you choose to communicate your vision of the year 2050 in the United States (or will we still be called that?).



In the year 2050,

