Introductory Set

Ask students what technologies make their lives easier. Why was each invented?

Procedure

Write the following quote on the board. Have students explain the meaning.

“Wherever a farm may be located, or whatever may be its production, fence, fence, and fence is the first, the intermediate, and the last consideration in the whole routine of the operations of the farm.”


A portion of the Osage Orange Hedgerow at Homestead National Monument of America.
Then, have students analyze the following advertisement. How did the invention of barbed wire alter farming on homesteads?

Have students make a list of inventions that played a role in the development of homesteads, for example: plow, reaper, tractor, windmill, etc.

Have students, individually or in groups, select one invention. They must research the invention and its impact on agriculture. Using the websites listed below as a starting point, students should develop multimedia presentations for the class that explain the invention, its development and its impact.

The Iowa Agriculturist http://www.campsilos.org/mod2/teachers/r1.shtml
Topics in Kansas History: Agriculture http://www.kshs.org/research/topics/agriculture/irrigation.htm
Farming in the 1940’s http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe40s/water_01.html
Farming in the 1920’s http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe20s/machines_01.htm

Farm History Video http://www.history.com/shows/modern-marvels/videos/farm-plows-kick-up-dirt#farm-plows-kick-up-dirt