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# **A WORD TO THE TEACHER**

## **Futuristics: A Time to Come**

Alvin Toffler relates in *The Third Wave* that most people believe either that "the world as we know it will last forever" or that "doomsday is imminent." Either view, according to Toffler, leads to inertia and/or noncreative action.

Knowledge and action are necessary, most futurists agree, if humankind is to ride the crest of our social and technological wave of change. Even our language is changing with terminology like "nuclear family," "time warp," "electronic cottage," "whole-brain and lifelong learning," and "communication revolution," which have all become household expressions. Changes in language and customs occur so rapidly that many times we do not have time to adjust before they change again.

The study of futuristics is an attempt to spot trends, to make predictions, and to provide creative direction in a time of great flux.

# INTEREST DEVELOPMENT CENTER

## Futuristics

The purpose of this interest center is to stimulate interest in the topic area. Students need time for browsing and investigating for maximum benefit. These are beginning ideas; you and your students will think of more. Let parents and other teachers know more about the center, and it will grow without effort.

### BOOKS, VIDEOS, FILMSTRIPS, AND FILM LOOPS (suggested topics)

World hunger

Population explosion

The brain and how it works (these should be recent)

Futuristics

Forecasting

Computers

Wholistic medicine

Medical frontiers and discoveries

Bionic medicine

Oil production

Extrasensory perception and related subjects

Robots

Genetic engineering

Space colonization

Alternate sources of power

Architecture of the future

Environmental issues

# 1 OUR WORLD TODAY

Explore the world as you know it . . .

Close your eyes and see yourself: at home . . . at school . . . at play . . .

Notice the colors . . . sounds . . . shapes . . .

See how you live . . .

what you eat . . .

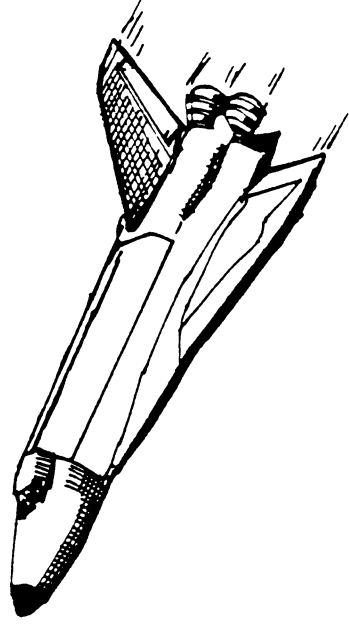
what your clothes look like . . .

how you travel from place to place . . .

what you do for fun . . .



Draw a picture of one part of your life and describe it to a friend.



# 2 YESTERDAY'S WORLD

At the library find pictures of life in the past.

Look for pictures of

clothing

food

furniture or homes

transportation

farming

communication equipment

musical instruments

how people were entertained



By yourself or with a friend:

- 🌐 Make a mural showing how one of these areas has changed during the last 100 years.  
Why did it change?