



Who made the very first television programme possible?



then




now





When televisions were invented they were very expensive. It was a long time before almost every one had a TV set!

Wireless 1923



Before families had television they listened to the wireless.

Wireless 1950s


Or they went to the cinema and in the early days they watched silent films.



People had been thinking for a long time that radio was only half of something – the sound half. They tried experimenting to get the other half right – the pictures half.

Wireless 1923



But WHO discovered HOW to do it?

It took almost 70 years of experimenting before they got the pictures to go with the sound!



John Logie Baird was the man who made the very first television programme possible.



John Logie Baird was born in Scotland and he grew up to be an engineer. He invented a mechanical television in 1923 but it took him a long time to get it right. At first the only thing to see on his new television were pictures of moving objects. It took him five years to be able to show pictures of a human face!

What do we know about him?



John Logie Baird's television didn't much look like the television you watch today. It was made out of borrowed bits and pieces including a tea chest, biscuit tin, bicycle light, hat box and knitting needles he got from a scrap yard.



But HOW did he do it?

This is what he made in 1925!



1930's picture



The television picture wasn't like anything you would see today. It was a bright pinkish colour with stripes that almost hid the picture. You had to look very closely before you could make out a blurred face!



When he made his very first television picture it was a picture of the head of Stooky Bill, a ventriloquist's dummy that he put in front of his camera apparatus! Stooky Bill was the very first television star!

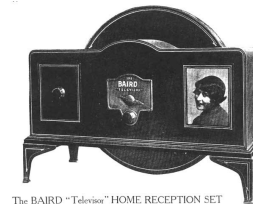
At first he couldn't make very clear pictures. They looked like the pictures below.



Felix the cat was the first cartoon character 1935.



1929



The BAIRD "Television" HOME RECEPTION SET

At first people were afraid of television. They thought it could see them AND see through walls but it wasn't very long before it was proved that televisions couldn't do this!

Other inventors liked John Logie Baird's ideas and they began to work on them. By the end of the 1930s, his television was much improved by the Marconi Company who made a television with much clearer pictures.

Other countries began broadcasting TV programmes including our own BBC but it was a long time before most people had TV sets in their homes!

1936 Baird T5



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The very first televisions had very poor pictures and were too expensive for anyone who wasn't rich!

Can you think how have televisions changed?



It wasn't until the 1950s that ordinary people began to afford television sets. They didn't look like our televisions today!

There weren't as many programmes to watch and most television sets were black and white ones – the programmes didn't have any colours!

1950 Bush TV22 -u/magnifier



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[Children's TV in the 1950s](#)

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