

What's New?

Walking into a house museum like Clayton, the home of the Frick family, is like stepping back into history. You can learn how things have changed over the last 120 years. Can you imagine life without computers and television? What would it be like to ride in a horse-drawn carriage instead of a car? How did people live without modern conveniences?

The Frick children, Childs and Helen, grew up in a time of great invention and change at the turn of the last century. Much that was new and exciting for them can seem old-fashioned to us. On the other hand, many things we are familiar with in 2017 might have also been surprisingly familiar to them back in 1897.

Guess whether Childs and Helen Frick could have used each of these everyday things in 1897. Circle Yes or No, then check your answers below.



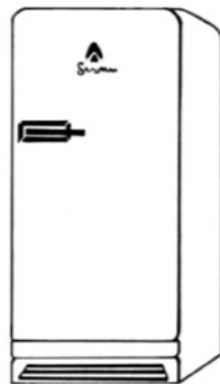
Baseball
Yes/No



Zipper
Yes/No



Curling Iron
Yes/No



Refrigerator
Yes/No



Popcorn
Yes/No



Electricity
Yes/No



Toothbrush
Yes/No



Radio
Yes/No



Pencil
Yes/No



Take a tour of Clayton to see some everyday objects that were actually owned by Childs, Helen, and their family!

Baseball: Yes. Kids could buy a cheap baseball for less than a quarter from the Sears catalog (Official League balls cost as much as \$1.25.) **Radio:** No. Commercial radio broadcasts weren't widely available until the 1920s, with Pittsburgh's own KDKA being the first commercially-licensed station. **Zipper:** No. Zippers were invented in 1913. In 1897, buttons were used to fasten everything from pants and shirts to shoes and gloves. **Curling Iron:** Yes. However, curling irons weren't electric, and had to be heated on a stove. **Refrigerator:** No. Household refrigerators weren't available until after 1910. Until then, people chilled their food with big chunks of ice in special insulated cold rooms and iceboxes, or kept their food at room temperature. **Pencil:** Yes. Graphite and wood pencils were invented about 360 years ago, and were common in the U.S. in 1897. **Popcorn:** Yes. People have been popping corn for thousands of years! Popcorn vendors were popular at parks, fairs, and circuses in 1897. **Electricity:** Yes. Not many homes in Pittsburgh had electricity in 1897, but Clayton was wired in 1883, 3 years before the White House! **Toothbrush:** Yes. Toothbrushes were mass-produced in America in 1897, but the first true bristled brush dates back to 1600!