Step 1:
Brainstorm a list of examples of technology. Have one group member record the examples, or have each group members write their ideas on small pieces of paper or sticky notes.

Step 2:
Look at various definitions of technology (see page 2). Choose a definition that you all agree upon, making sure that everyone in the group understands what it means. Analyze how this definition applies to some of the examples of technologies on your list (e.g., a car allows us to travel greater distances more quickly).

Step 3:
Based on the definition you have chosen, add new examples of technologies to your original list (e.g., Is a *road* a technology, according to this definition? Is a *pen* a technology?). Now, think about what you have learned so far about the earliest human societies. Expand your list of examples to include examples from these societies.

Step 4:
In your own words create your group's definition of technology. The definition must be clear, easy to understand, and include the "essential characteristics" that all group members agree that *all* technologies have in common. Create a diagram that represents your group's definition.

Our definition of technology...

Definitions of Technology

"… tools, instruments, machines, systems, processes, and environments developed by humans to live in and manage our natural environment ."

(Manitoba Education and Youth, *Kindergarten to Grade 8 Social Studies Curriculum Framework, 143*)

Other Definitions of Technology

- Mechanisms for distributing messages, including postal systems, radio and television broadcasting companies, telephone, and satellite and computer networks.

- The application of knowledge to meet the goals, goods, and services desired by people.

- The application of scientific advances to benefit humanity.

- The set of tools, both hardware (physical) and software, that help us act and think better. Technology includes all the objects from pencil and paper to the latest electronic gadget.

- Human innovation in action that involves the generation of knowledge and processes to develop systems that solve problems and extend human capabilities; the innovation, change, or modification of the natural environment to satisfy perceived human needs and wants.

- A piece of equipment or a technique for performing a particular activity.

- The techniques used to produce artifacts.

- The application of science to increase or promote well-being within the healthcare system.

- The means by which human societies interact directly with and adapt to the environment.

(Google, Definitions of Technology on the Web, <www.google.ca/search?q=define:technology>, 13 October 2006)

⇒ Find two other definitions from print or electronic sources.

1. _____
   _____
   _____

   Source: _____

2. _____
   _____
   _____

   Source: _____