

# SCIENCE MUSEUM

# GALLERY GUIDE

## INFORMATION AGE

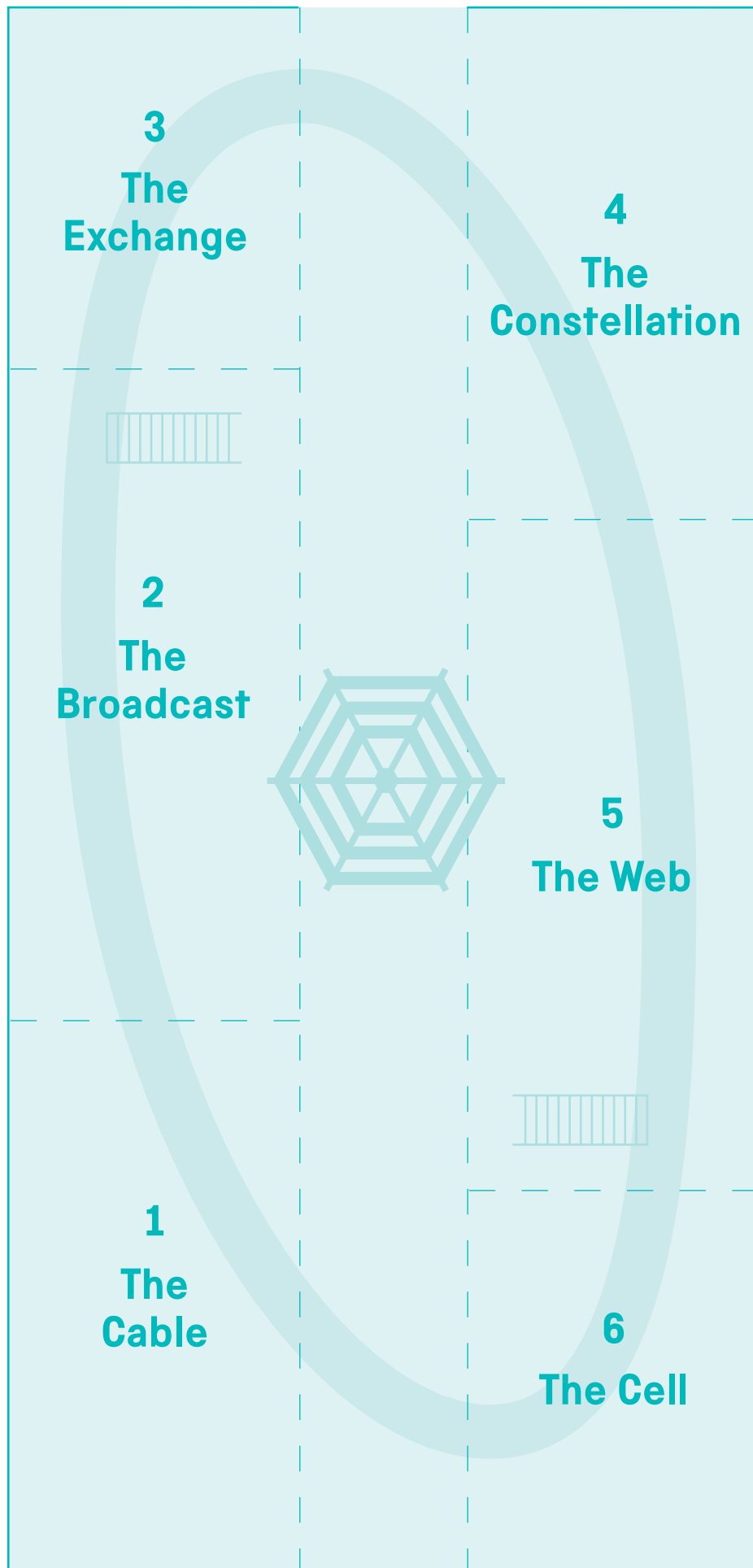
<b>INFORMATION</b> <b>i</b>	Age <b>7-11</b> <b>11-14</b> <b>14-16</b>	Topic <b>SOUND, COMPUTING</b>
	Location <b>LEVEL 2, SCIENCE MUSEUM, LONDON</b>	



***Information Age* tells the story of how our lives have been transformed by information and communication technologies over the last 200 years. It is a journey through the history of modern communications from the telegraph through to the smartphone.**

Explore the science of communication and information networks through the extraordinary developments in technology and the people who have invented, operated and were affected by each new wave of innovation. Over 800 incredible objects in this gallery, large and small, tell stories from the growth of the worldwide telegraph network in the 19th century, to the influence of mobile phones on our lives today.

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## 1 The Cable

Find out how the telegraph allowed us to send messages over long distances faster than people can travel, and how this led to the first global communication network and brought the world closer together.

**Don't miss: Mechanical puppet theatre, 2014**

Watch this beautiful puppet show which tells the story of how the electric telegraph was invented, and find out how it was used to catch a murderer!



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## 2 The Broadcast

Explore how radio and television have affected the lives of millions of people, and how digital broadcasting has given us more choice and control in how we interact with media and entertainment.

**Don't miss: Marconi 1.5kW transmitter, 1922–25**

This was the equipment used to broadcast the BBC's first radio programme in 1922 from the London station 2LO.



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## 3 The Exchange

From early telephone exchanges to fibre optics and satellite links, discover how telephone networks which convert speech into electrical signals have transformed our social and working lives.

**Don't miss: Post Office telephone kiosk no. 6**

This was once the most common telephone box in Britain, designed for the silver jubilee of King George V.



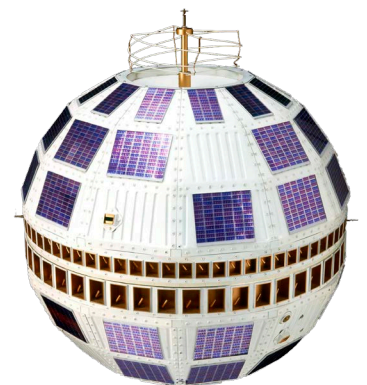
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## 4 The Constellation

From television broadcasting to navigation systems in our cars, find out how satellite networks transmit images, voice and data to where other communication technologies cannot reach and into our homes and pockets.

**Don't miss: Telstar satellite, 1962**

The first satellite to transmit live black-and-white television pictures from America to the UK and the rest of Europe through space.



## 5 The Web

Discover how computer networks have allowed us to share information and ideas all over the world, supporting anything from global economic systems and creative partnerships, to shopping and entertainment.

**Don't miss: NeXT computer used by Sir Tim Berners-Lee, 1990**

This is the computer that was used to design the World Wide Web and host the very first web page.



## 6 The Cell

Find out who raced to build the UK's first mobile phone networks and how they transformed the way we connect with each other and keep in touch with the world around us while we are on the move.

**Don't miss: Mobile phone call box from Bamenda, Cameroon, 2012**

This bright yellow call box is where the local community came to fix their mobile phones and buy their call time.



### Talk about...



As you explore *Information Age*, think and talk about how information and communication is important in everyday lives. Use these questions as a starting point to inspire you to come up with more of your own:

- What interests or surprises you about what you have seen in the gallery?
- How many different ways do you communicate with your friends and family?
- What would your life be like without computers or the internet?
- What would you like to know more about? How could you find out more?

### Make the most of your visit

In the centre of the gallery sits its largest object – the Rugby tuning coil. Positioned next to it is a touchable model of the coil, made from the same materials as the full-size object.

There are six of these tactile objects around the gallery which give you the chance to feel and connect with the things in the gallery more closely.

You will also find interactive replicas of some of the objects which allow you to experience at first hand what it is like to use them.

### Explore more...



You can find more awe-inspiring inventions and innovations in the Science Museum's *Making the Modern World* gallery.

You can also continue your experience back at home and in the classroom. The Science Museum website features lots of different hands-on activities, films and games inspired by the science principles that are demonstrated throughout the museum.