

## Lesson Plan

### Tasks & Technology

**Book:** *Before Computers*

**Series:** What Did We Do?

**Level:** Beacon

### Objective

To help students practice matching technologies to their uses, based on the descriptions in a book.

### Supplies

- *Before Computers* book
- Tasks & Technology worksheet (attached)
- Pencils

### Before the Activity

Read *Before Computers*, or assign it to students to read on their own. Print a copy of the Tasks & Technology worksheet for each student.

### Activity

Before computers were invented, people still did many of the same tasks that they do today. They wrote, did research, solved math problems, and tracked information. But they used different methods or tools. The *Before Computers* book describes a few of the ways people did these tasks in the past. Pass out the Tasks & Technology worksheet. Explain that this worksheet lists some of the tasks described in the book. Students should match each task with the tool a person could use to do it. Some tools might seem like correct answers for more than one task. But students should use each tool only once. They should choose the tool that is the closest to the description that appears in the book.

### Evaluation

Use the attached answer key to give each student up to 12 points, adding 1 extra point if the student correctly answers the bonus question.

### Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 4 (RI 4.1, 4.4).

# Tasks & Technology

Draw a line from the task to the tool a person could use to do it. Use each tool only once.

find a specific book on a library's shelves

calculator

write a report for a class at school

ledger

do math problems in the classroom

card catalog

find websites with facts about a topic

typewriter

keep track of when a book is due back to the library

paper and pencil

make photos of old documents big enough to read

spreadsheet

track amounts and payments by writing on lines

chalkboard

help do some steps of a math problem

memory card

add and enter prices of items at a store

paper card

stamp letters onto a sheet of paper

microfiche reader

remember a few pages of typing for a typewriter

search engine

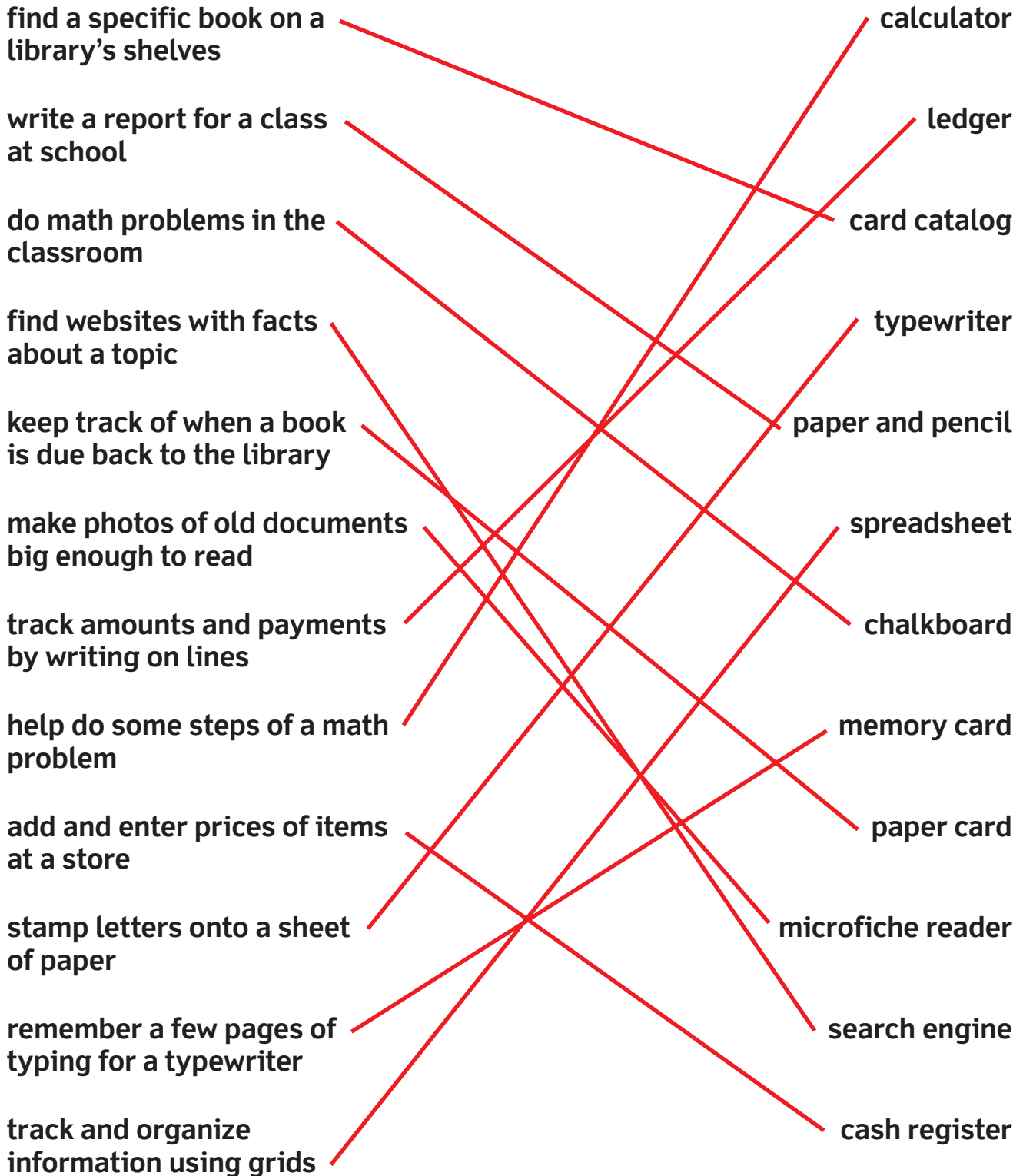
track and organize information using grids

cash register

**BONUS:** Which tool or method requires a computer? \_\_\_\_\_

# Tasks & Technology Answer Key

Draw a line from the task to the tool a person could use to do it. Use each tool only once.



**BONUS:** Which tool or method requires a computer? search engine