IN THE BEGINNING
The visionary Scottish inventor, John Logie Baird, turned his dream into reality when in 1927 he demonstrated colour television and a video-recording system he called a 'Phonovision'. In 1928, he made the first transatlantic television signal. Source: www.historylearningsite.co.uk

1936 BBC TV broadcasting begins. In 1937, George VI's Coronation becomes the first outside broadcast.

1939 TV is suspended because of the war - fewer than 20,000 TV sets are in operation.

1940 The government announces a second TV channel, to be operated on commercial lines.

1946 TV resumes after the war with a £2 licence fee.

1954 The number of TV households exceeds the number of radio-only households, with over 10m by the end of 1950s.

1959 9 million TV licences are bought.

1960 The landmark soap Coronation Street begins.

1964 BBC2, the third television channel, goes on air in 1964, transmitting in colour in 1967.

1967 The first News at Ten is broadcast.

1968 A colour TV licence is introduced.

1969 ITV goes colour.

1970 16m TV licences and TV is blamed for plummeting cinema audiences.

1971 Radio only licence is abolished. Morecambe and Wise are smashing TV audience figures.

1976 The first analogue Channel 4 is launched.

1980 Europe's first satellite channel is launched. Rupert Murdoch takes over in 1984 and renames it Sky.

1982 The fourth analogue channel is named Channel 4.

1983 Breakfast TV starts on BBC and ITV. Thames is the first TV station to start 24-hour broadcasting in 1987.

1986 BSB (British Satellite Broadcasting) wins satellite broadcasting franchise.

1987 The Cable Authority is created as the first cable systems emerge.

1988 The original 15 ITV franchises are reduced: Carlton, Granada, United News, Ulster Television, and Scottish Media Group. The funeral of The Princess of Wales is watched by 32.1 million.

1990 The first pay-per-view event as Sky charges for the Frank Bruno vs Mike Tyson world title boxing bout.

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1997 The final analogue channel is launched, Channel 5.

2000 The government announces a region-by-region programme for the switch from analogue to digital TV. The first analogue signals were cut in Whitehaven, Cumbria in October 2007.

2002 Freeview is introduced, with subsidised set-top boxes offering 28 channels.

2005 YouTube is founded - more than 1 billion unique users each month and over 6 billion hours of video are watched each month. Source: YouTube statistics

2005 The first iPad is released. Now recording, live streaming and on demand services are changing viewing habits for ever.

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