



Reading



ROBOT WORLD

What do you think of when you see the word robots? Science-fiction metal monsters or machines that look like people? Robots are all around us today and they do a lot of different things.

Karel Capek, a Czech writer, used the word 'robot' for the first time in 1921. It comes from the Czech word *robota*. In his play, 'R.U.R.' (Rossum's Universal Robots), a factory makes robots. Unfortunately, the robots kill all the humans and control the world! It's a scary story.

Today, we find robots in lots of different places from factories to hospitals. In car factories, robots do boring, dangerous or difficult jobs such as cutting metal or painting the body of the car. Some robots guard museums at night. Others vacuum the floors in offices and homes!

These robots don't look like people, but they are similar in humans, the brain sends messages to different parts of the body and controls its movements. In robot technology, a main computer controls the movement of the robot in the same way.

Robots are very useful for exploring space. Russian robots walked on the Moon in the 1970s, and the Americans landed two robots on Mars in 2004. But why send robots into space? Well, robots can go to places that are dangerous for humans. They don't need oxygen or food and drink, and they can survive extreme temperatures. In space this is important. Temperatures can go from 120C in the sun to -100C in the dark!

These days, the most advanced robots can hear, see and make decisions. They have AI or 'artificial intelligence'. In the future, we will use robots in many

more different ways. Doctors will use very small robots called nanobots to treat illnesses. They are so small that you can't see them.

1. Read the article and answer the questions.

1. When did Karel Capek invent the word robot?
2. Where does the article say we can find robots today?
3. What controls a robot's movements?
4. When did robots first go to the Moon?
5. Why are robots useful in space?
6. What can robots with AI do?

2. What does the article say robots will do in the future? What do you think they will do?