EXPLORE THE THEME

Look at the timeline and read the information. Then discuss the questions.

1. Do you think you would prefer shopping in the past to shopping today? Why or why not?
2. How would you feel if you were in a store and your salesperson was a robot?
3. What other developments in shopping trends are you aware of?

TWO CENTURIES *of* SHOPPING

In the old days, customers went into a store with an item in mind. They spoke to a knowledgeable salesperson, had a friendly conversation, and paid for their item—usually in cash. Times have changed, and in 2023, over 2.6 billion people shopped online. Today, even if you go to a store, you might not meet an actual person …



1796
Department stores
The first department store, Harding, Howell and Company, opened in London, U.K. Shoppers were mostly wealthy women.

The Arcade Cleveland opened in Ohio, USA, in 1890. It was the first indoor shopping center in America. The building still exists today and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

LIVEWORKSHEETS