

# JOBS NOBODY DOES ANY LONGER

Look at the list of outdated jobs below. What do you think they were?

Read the text and match a job with its description.

\_\_\_ human computing

\_\_\_ ice trading

\_\_\_ knocker-opping

\_\_\_ operating switchboards

\_\_\_ pinsetting

\_\_\_ rat-catching

\_\_\_ town crying

1



Before most people could read and write, there were public servants who went around town and shouted out information on laws, market days, or products. It was a profession for both men and women, from Ancient Rome to the beginning of the 20th century. They carried a bell, gong, drum, or horn, so others would know they were coming to give news in a loud and booming voice. Some had elaborate uniforms.

2



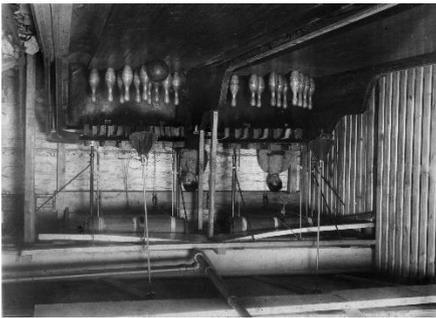
This activity was especially important in the 19th and early 20th century but became almost useless when refrigerators were invented. It consisted of cutting, transporting, and selling large blocks of frozen water, which was used both at home, and in the food industry. It helped people cool their food, especially fish, fruits, and vegetables.

3



The first demand for this job can be precisely dated to 1878, when the first telephone company was opened. The job consisted of connecting one caller to another. Whenever a phone was picked up, a light would go on. A worker connected two telephone numbers through a switch. The job became useless as telephone technology advanced, and last people had this job in the 1980s.

4



Bowling is a sport that goes back to ancient Egypt. Therefore, this job is quite old, too. It consists of collecting and correctly placing bowling pins, and returning the balls to players. It used to be done mostly by teenagers and young men. Nowadays a machine is used, although there is always at least one person to help if the machine stops working.

5



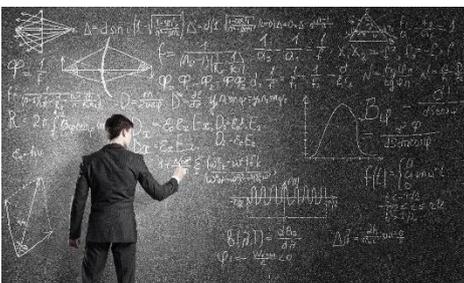
It was such an important job that it is difficult to determine when it began. Even today, there are pest control technicians who have taken over because we still need this line of work. These people used ferrets, terrier dogs, traps, and poison in their job, and were most often employed in large cities. There are even fairy tales about them! However, they were not well-liked, as some would also create more work for themselves on purpose. Can you guess how?

6



This profession existed mostly in Britain and Ireland from the 19th century to about 1950. It was important for factory workers, who had to get up early for work, but did not own clocks or watches. An elderly person, or sometimes a police officer, would go around a city and use a stick to bang on people's doors or windows to wake them up. Sometimes they also put out the light in streetlamps. Unfortunately, it was a poorly paid job.

7



This is a job that goes back to the 17th century when science became more prominent. Scientists needed people to help them with mathematical calculations, especially when their field of interest was with astronomy. The work became even more important after the 19th century, and in the early days of NASA. At first it was only a job for men, but slowly women joined, too. They became less important after the 1960s, when they were replaced with machines.

**Questions:**

- 1) Which of these jobs do you consider most, and which least difficult? How about dangerous?
- 2) What jobs might you do, and which would you never do?
- 3) Why were these jobs necessary at some point?
- 4) What skills did people need to do each one of them?
- 5) Compare any two jobs: Did people need special clothes for them? Were they done outdoors or indoors? Did workers use special machines?

**Tasks:**

- 1) Explore which machines or jobs have replaced those mentioned in the text.
- 2) Create timelines for different jobs: Mark when they began to be relevant, and when they stopped being so.
- 3) Find examples of other jobs that nobody does any longer.

**Key:** 1 Town crying - 2 Ice trading - 3 Operating switchboards - 4 Pinsetting - 5 Rat-catching - 6 Knocker-upping - 7 Human computing