War Changes More

Trace how wartime needs shaped life beyond the battlefield.

SS24.US2.8d "Describe how World War II led to advances in mass media, medicine, science, and technology."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a wartime need in each paragraph, circle an advance it sped up, and give each matching need and advance the same number.

Beyond the Battlefield

1. During World War II, a family might hear a battle report on the radio and later watch a newsreel in a movie theater. Neither medium was invented for the war. Yet the demand for fast updates and public support gave radio news and filmed reports a larger role in daily life. Governments also used broadcasts and films to persuade audiences, sometimes leaving out unwelcome facts. Wartime use showed how quickly mass media could inform millions or shape what they believed.

2. On the battlefield, an infected wound could kill even after surgery. Penicillin had been discovered before the war, but fighting created urgent demand for reliable supplies. British and American researchers and companies improved ways to grow and purify the drug, making large-scale production possible by 1944. Military doctors used it to treat bacterial infections in wounded service members. The same production methods later helped bring antibiotics to civilian patients. War accelerated the move from a promising laboratory finding to widely available treatment.

3. To gain military advantages, governments funded studies of nuclear fission, which increased understanding of chain reactions and led to atomic bombs used against Japan in 1945. Engineers also improved radar so forces could detect distant aircraft and ships using radio waves. British teams built electronic Colossus machines to help break encrypted German messages. After the war, radar gained civilian uses, while wartime electronic computing helped shape later computer development. These advances brought benefits and serious dangers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did wartime needs change the role of radio news and newsreels?

2. Why did World War II change how penicillin was produced and used?

3. What scientific knowledge did wartime fission research increase, and what did that research lead to?

4. How did two wartime military needs lead to advances in radar and electronic computing?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word museum label connecting advances in two different fields to wartime needs and later effects. Explain one reason people should view a wartime advance with caution.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 11 · SS24.US2.8d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a wartime need in each paragraph, circle an advance it sped up, and give each matching need and advance the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did wartime needs change the role of radio news and newsreels?	**Demand for fast updates and public support made radio news and filmed reports more important in daily life and gave governments ways to reach and persuade large audiences.**
2	Why did World War II change how penicillin was produced and used?	**The need to treat infections drove improvements in growing and purifying penicillin, allowing large-scale production for military patients and later civilian use.**
3	What scientific knowledge did wartime fission research increase, and what did that research lead to?	**It increased understanding of chain reactions and led to atomic bombs used against Japan in 1945.**
4	How did two wartime military needs lead to advances in radar and electronic computing?	**The need to detect distant aircraft and ships drove radar improvements. The need to break encrypted messages led British teams to build the electronic Colossus machines.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

World War II changed medicine and mass media in different ways. The need to treat infected wounds drove researchers and companies to produce penicillin in large quantities, which later helped civilian patients. Meanwhile, the need to report fighting and win support made radio news and newsreels more important in everyday life. Yet a larger audience did not guarantee accurate information: governments could use the same media to persuade people while hiding facts. These changes show that wartime pressure could speed useful developments, but the way people used them still mattered.

Accept other accurate pairs of fields and effects supported by the passage. Caution may address misleading mass media or the destructive use of nuclear research.