

Signals and Stars

How two technologies changed American life

SS5H6.d "Discuss the significance of the technologies of television and space exploration."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show how television or space exploration changed people's lives. Write a 1 by television details and a 2 by space exploration details so you can compare their significance.

Technology Changes America

- ① After World War II, television sets became common in many American homes. Families could watch news, sports, entertainment, and important national events without leaving home. Television brought images and voices from faraway places into living rooms. It also gave leaders a powerful way to speak to millions of people at once, which changed how Americans learned about public events.
- ② In 1969, television helped make space exploration a shared experience. During Apollo 11, millions watched astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walk on the Moon. The broadcast showed that space exploration was not only work for scientists and astronauts. It let ordinary people follow a difficult achievement and discuss what it could mean for the nation.
- ③ Space exploration required new tools, including powerful computers, rockets, and satellites. Satellites now help people communicate, study weather, and find their location. Missions also taught scientists about Earth, the Moon, and other worlds. These achievements increased scientific knowledge and inspired many young people to study science and engineering. Because space programs cost a great deal, Americans debated how much money the government should spend on them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are two ways television changed how Americans learned about public events?

2 How did the Apollo 11 broadcast make space exploration significant to ordinary people?

3 Name two ways satellites from space exploration help people today.

4 Why did Americans debate government spending on space programs?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write 3 or 4 sentences explaining one important effect of television and one important effect of space exploration. Include one way the two technologies were alike or different, using details from the reading.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show how television or space exploration changed people's lives. Write a 1 by television details and a 2 by space exploration details so you can compare their significance. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two ways television changed how Americans learned about public events?	It brought images and voices from faraway places into homes, and it let leaders speak to millions of people at once.
2	How did the Apollo 11 broadcast make space exploration significant to ordinary people?	It let millions of ordinary people watch the Moon landing, follow the achievement, and discuss what it meant for the nation.
3	Name two ways satellites from space exploration help people today.	Satellites help people communicate, study weather, and find their location. Any two are correct.
4	Why did Americans debate government spending on space programs?	They debated it because space programs cost a great deal of money.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Television changed American life by bringing national events into people's homes. Space exploration produced satellites that help people communicate and study weather. Both technologies connected people to information, but television shared events while space exploration also created new scientific tools.

Accept answers that accurately explain effects, not just name the technologies. For the open response, accept different valid comparisons when the student includes an effect of each technology and support from the passage.