

Life Goes Digital

Trace how new technology changed everyday American life.

SS5H7.c "Explain the impact of the personal computer and the Internet on American life."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that explains how computers changed work. Circle the sentence about email, then number 1, 2, and 3 the three sentences in paragraph 3 that name a challenge.

Computers Connect America

- ① Personal computers became common in American homes, schools, and workplaces during the late twentieth century. A computer on a desk could store records, calculate numbers, and help people write and revise documents. At many jobs, workers used computers to organize information more quickly than paper files allowed. Students could type reports, use educational software, and learn keyboarding skills.
- ② The Internet connected computers so people could share information across long distances. Email let families and coworkers send messages faster than mailing letters. Websites gave people new ways to research topics, read news, shop, and apply for jobs. As more Americans went online, businesses could sell to customers beyond their local areas, and people could compare products from home.
- ③ These changes also created challenges. In the early years, many families could not afford a computer or reliable Internet service, creating a digital divide. People needed to protect private information, such as passwords and financial details, from theft. False information could spread quickly online, so Americans had to learn how to check sources. Personal computers and the Internet changed daily life in lasting ways.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did personal computers change the way many workers organized information?

2 What Internet tool changed communication, and how did it change it?

3 Name two things people could do on websites that changed daily life.

4 Why did a digital divide form in the early years of computers and the Internet?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine your family gets a personal computer and Internet service for the first time. Write 4 sentences explaining one change in school or work, one change in communication or finding information, and one challenge your family must handle safely.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that explains how computers changed work. Circle the sentence about email, then number 1, 2, and 3 the three sentences in paragraph 3 that name a challenge. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did personal computers change the way many workers organized information?	Workers could organize information more quickly than they could with paper files.
2	What Internet tool changed communication, and how did it change it?	Email let families and coworkers send messages faster than mailing letters.
3	Name two things people could do on websites that changed daily life.	Answers may include research topics, read news, shop, apply for jobs, or compare products from home.
4	Why did a digital divide form in the early years of computers and the Internet?	Many families could not afford a computer or reliable Internet service.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After my family gets a computer and Internet service, I can type and revise school reports at home. My aunt can send email instead of waiting for letters. We can research a health question on a website, but we will check the source before trusting it. We will also keep our passwords private to protect our information.

Accept accurate responses that connect personal computers or the Internet to a change in American daily life. For the open response, accept reasonable examples that include all three required parts and an appropriate safety action.