News Through Time

Trace what changed and what continued as news traveled faster.

6-12.HT1.1 "Identify a series of historical events and developments as examples of change and/or continuity over time."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline at least four dated developments and number them in time order. Circle one idea that remained true as the ways of delivering news changed.

From Street Sellers to Screens

1 In the 1830s, many American cities gained cheap daily newspapers, often called penny papers. Sellers offered them on busy streets, so readers did not have to pay for an expensive subscription. Reporters described fires, crimes, and local politics. News still moved only as fast as a person, horse, or ship carrying it. In 1844, a telegraph line linked Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. Telegraph operators sent messages as electrical signals along wires. Soon newspapers could receive reports from distant places much faster than before. Yet someone still had to gather information, decide what mattered, and put words before an audience.

2 In 1920, station KDKA in Pittsburgh broadcast U.S. presidential election returns by radio. Listeners could hear results in their homes instead of waiting for a printed paper. By the 1950s, television sets had become common in American homes. Television news joined spoken reports with moving images, letting viewers see a speech or a storm. Radio did not disappear when television arrived; people still listened in cars and kitchens. Both radio and television could share one report with many people at once. That reach made fast updates possible, but early reports could still contain mistakes.

3 In the 1990s, news organizations began posting reports on websites. A reader with an internet connection could look up a story without waiting for a broadcast time or the next day's paper. In the 2000s, mobile devices made it easier to check updates away from home. News could now travel through newspapers, broadcasts, and digital screens, sometimes about the same event. The ways of delivering news changed repeatedly, but people still wanted to know what was happening beyond their own view. Reporters and audiences still faced an old problem, how to tell a reliable account from a false one.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the 1844 telegraph change the speed of news compared with the early penny papers? What part of the news process stayed the same?

2. What changed between radio news in 1920 and television news in the 1950s? What did the two methods share?

3. Name two dated developments after 1950 in order. How did each change when or where people could get news?

4. What need continued throughout the passage? Name three different ways people received news over time.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a historical topic other than news. In four sentences, put three dated events or developments in time order, then explain one change and one thing that continued across them.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADES 6-12 · 6-12.HT1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline at least four dated developments and number them in time order. Circle one idea that remained true as the ways of delivering news changed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the 1844 telegraph change the speed of news compared with the early penny papers? What part of the news process stayed the same?	**Telegraph messages traveled much faster than news carried by people, horses, or ships. Someone still had to gather information and decide what to share.**
2	What changed between radio news in 1920 and television news in the 1950s? What did the two methods share?	**Television added moving images to spoken reports. Both methods could share one report with many people at once.**
3	Name two dated developments after 1950 in order. How did each change when or where people could get news?	**In the 1990s, websites let readers look up news without waiting for a broadcast or paper. In the 2000s, mobile devices made updates easier to check away from home.**
4	What need continued throughout the passage? Name three different ways people received news over time.	**People continued to want to know what was happening beyond their own view. Examples include newspapers, radio, television, and websites.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1807, a steamboat began regular passenger service between New York City and Albany. In 1869, workers completed the first transcontinental railroad in the United States. In 1908, Ford introduced the Model T automobile. Travel shifted from river routes to rail routes and then to roads, but people continued to use transportation to reach other places.

Accept other accurate historical topics with three dated developments in order. The final sentence must identify both a change and a continuity supported by those developments.