Connected, But Unequal

How growing technology changes daily life

6.H.12 "Discuss the benefits and challenges related to the development of a highly technological society."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one benefit and circle one related challenge in each paragraph to show how technology can help people and cause problems at the same time.

From Library Computers to Pocket Screens

1 In the 1990s, many public libraries began offering computers with internet access. Before that, a student researching another town might wait for a book to arrive or call someone who lived there. With a library computer, the student could read a town's website in minutes. Libraries became important places for people who did not own a computer. Still, a line could form at the few available machines. This change showed that new technology could speed up learning while access to it remained uneven.

2 As internet connections spread, more jobs and services moved online. A small shop could show its products to buyers far away, and a doctor could speak with a patient by video when an in-person visit was difficult. Families could send messages across long distances without paying for a long-distance phone call. These tools saved travel time and reached more people. But a shop with no reliable connection could lose customers to online rivals, and a patient without a device could miss the video visit.

3 By the 2020s, phones and computers helped many people work, learn, and find news from almost anywhere. That convenience came with new problems. Websites could collect details about what people searched for, and false stories could spread quickly through social media. Making and replacing devices also used metals and energy and left electronic waste. Communities faced choices: provide public internet access, protect personal information, check sources before sharing, and repair devices when possible. A highly technological society offered useful tools, but people had to decide how to use them fairly and safely.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did library computers help students, and what could keep people from using them quickly?

2. How could online doctor visits help one patient but leave another patient out?

3. How could online communication help families while fast online sharing also causes a problem?

4. What challenge comes from making and replacing devices, and how could people respond?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town plans to make library help available through a phone app. Write a short paragraph explaining one benefit, two challenges, and one step the town could take to address a challenge.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 6 · 6.H.12

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one benefit and circle one related challenge in each paragraph to show how technology can help people and cause problems at the same time. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did library computers help students, and what could keep people from using them quickly?	**Students could find information in minutes, but a line could form at the few available computers.**
2	How could online doctor visits help one patient but leave another patient out?	**A video visit could help a patient who could not easily visit in person, but a patient without a device could miss it.**
3	How could online communication help families while fast online sharing also causes a problem?	**Families could send messages across long distances, but false stories could also spread quickly through social media.**
4	What challenge comes from making and replacing devices, and how could people respond?	**Making and replacing devices uses metals and energy and leaves electronic waste. People could repair devices when possible.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A library app could let residents ask for help when they cannot visit the building. However, people without smartphones might be left out. The app could also collect private information about what residents ask. The town should keep a staffed help desk so people without phones can still get help.

Accept other passage-supported benefit and challenge pairs in the marking task. For Your Turn, accept a plausible benefit, two distinct challenges, and a step that addresses at least one of those challenges.