Celebrations Across Screens

How digital tools change family gatherings and traditions

S.2.9 "Discuss how innovations in science and technology affect social interaction and culture."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways technology changes how people interact during the wedding. Circle one way it affects a family tradition, and number two limits or concerns the family faces.

A Wedding Near and Far

1. At a Saturday wedding in Chicago, relatives in three countries join the celebration through a video call. A phone camera and an internet connection let them watch the ceremony as it happens. The couple can hear greetings from people who could not afford to travel. Years ago, those relatives might have received photographs after the event instead. Now they can speak to guests during the reception, making distance less of a barrier to sharing a family ritual. Yet a screen does not let them taste the food or join the dancing in the room.

2. Before the wedding, a family group chat helps guests choose songs and share instructions for a traditional dance. A cousin posts a short video of the steps, so distant relatives can practice and later teach others. The chat also changes who shapes the celebration: younger cousins living far away can suggest music as easily as relatives nearby. Some family members prefer discussing choices in person and feel overwhelmed when messages arrive all day. The tools do not create one new culture for everyone. Families decide which customs to keep, adapt, or share only in person.

3. After the wedding, a shared online album lets guests add photos and short stories. That collection may help children learn who attended and how the family celebrated. But instant sharing raises questions about consent: one guest may not want a private prayer or a child's face posted publicly. Access is uneven, too. A grandparent with a weak internet connection may hear only broken audio, while someone without a smartphone cannot join the call at all. To include more people, the family can mail printed photos and call relatives by telephone. Their choices shape whose voices become part of the celebration's memory.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the video call change distant relatives' interactions compared with receiving photographs later?

2. How does the group chat change who can help shape the wedding's music and dance traditions?

3. How might the online album help preserve a family tradition, and what concern does sharing it raise?

4. How can unequal access to technology affect participation, and what does the family do to include more people?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a neighborhood food festival starts using a translation app. In five or six sentences, explain how it could change who interacts, how a food tradition is shared or adapted, and one possible drawback with a practical response.

ANSWER KEY

Celebrations Across Screens

HIGH SCHOOL · S.2.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways technology changes how people interact during the wedding. Circle one way it affects a family tradition, and number two limits or concerns the family faces. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the video call change distant relatives' interactions compared with receiving photographs later?	**Distant relatives can watch the ceremony as it happens and speak with guests during the reception, rather than only see photographs afterward.**
2	How does the group chat change who can help shape the wedding's music and dance traditions?	**Distant younger cousins can suggest music, and a shared video lets distant relatives practice the traditional dance and teach it to others.**
3	How might the online album help preserve a family tradition, and what concern does sharing it raise?	**Its photos and stories can teach children how the family celebrated, but guests may not consent to having private moments or a child's face posted publicly.**
4	How can unequal access to technology affect participation, and what does the family do to include more people?	**A weak connection can interrupt the call, and someone without a smartphone cannot join it. The family can mail printed photos and call relatives by telephone.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a neighborhood food festival, volunteers use a translation app to help cooks and visitors who speak different languages talk. A cook explains why her family serves a bean dish at harvest time, and visitors ask questions they could not have asked before. The app helps people share the story behind the dish rather than just buy a plate. However, it might mistranslate a word that names a special ingredient. Volunteers could ask the cook to check key translations before displaying them. People then have more ways to connect while the cook keeps control of her story.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of changes in interaction, tradition, privacy, or access. For Your Turn, look for a plausible effect on interaction and culture, plus a drawback and a practical response.