Life, Newly Connected

Science and technology in American life, 1945 to 1980

USH.6.8 "Describe developing trends in science and technology, and explain how they impacted the lives of Americans during the period 1945 to 1980."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three developing trends, circle an effect on Americans' lives for each one, and number each trend and its matching effect with the same number.

Changes at Home and Beyond

1 In 1950, a television was still a rare sight in American homes. During the next decade, factory production and expanding broadcast networks helped bring sets into millions of living rooms. Families could watch national news and the same programs at home, often at the same time. Advertisers also gained a powerful way to sell products to a mass audience.

TELEVISIONS IN U.S. HOUSEHOLDS

Year	Households with a TV
1950	9%
1960	87%

2 Another new tool fit in a pocket. Transistors, small electronic parts, replaced bulky vacuum tubes in many radios. By the late 1950s, portable transistor radios let teenagers carry music outside the family living room. This gave young people more control over what they heard, while radio companies could reach listeners away from home.

3 Science changed family decisions about health, too. After U.S. officials licensed the Salk polio vaccine in 1955, vaccination campaigns reached many children. Polio had frightened parents because it could cause paralysis. Widespread vaccination sharply reduced U.S. cases, so families faced a much lower risk of the disease. Access to new products and medical care still varied by community.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the table show a television trend, and how did that trend change family life?

2. How did transistors change where teenagers listened to music and who chose what they heard?

3. How did the Salk vaccine change the danger polio posed to U.S. families?

4. Why might the vaccine's effect on family life have differed across communities?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a fictional family with a teenager in 1960. In one short paragraph, show how two trends from the passage changed their daily life, then explain why a neighbor's experience might differ.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three developing trends, circle an effect on Americans' lives for each one, and number each trend and its matching effect with the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the table show a television trend, and how did that trend change family life?	**TV ownership rose from 9% of households in 1950 to 87% in 1960. More families could watch national news and programs at home.**
2	How did transistors change where teenagers listened to music and who chose what they heard?	**Transistors made radios portable, so teenagers could carry music outside the family living room and choose more of what they heard.**
3	How did the Salk vaccine change the danger polio posed to U.S. families?	**Vaccination sharply reduced U.S. polio cases, lowering families' risk of a disease that could cause paralysis.**
4	Why might the vaccine's effect on family life have differed across communities?	**Access to medical care varied by community, so families did not all have the same opportunity to get vaccinated.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1960, the Rivera family watches a presidential speech on their television instead of waiting to read about it in the newspaper. Their teenager, Ana, takes a transistor radio to the park and chooses her own music. Ana's younger brother has received the polio vaccine, which lowers his risk of the disease. A neighbor without a television would miss the broadcast at home, even though both families live on the same street.

Accept historically plausible fictional details when students accurately connect two trends to distinct effects on daily life. A neighbor's different experience may reflect unequal access to products or medical care.