

Signals Across Cultures

Analyze how faster communication changed cultural connections.

6.15.C “analyze the impact of improved communication technology among cultures; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each communication technology named in the passage. Number three details that show an impact on connections among cultures, and circle one detail that shows a possible problem.

Messages Moving Faster

- ① In 1866, a dependable telegraph cable began carrying messages under the Atlantic Ocean between Ireland and Newfoundland. Before the cable, news and letters crossed by ship, often taking more than a week. Telegraph operators sent coded electrical signals, and a message could arrive in minutes. Newspapers in Britain and the United States began sharing reports more quickly. Faster news let people learn about events, inventions, and ideas from another culture while those events were still happening.
- ② Telegraph links also changed trade and migration. A merchant in New York could learn cotton prices in India sooner and make decisions before a ship arrived. Families who had moved across oceans could send brief updates to relatives, although telegrams cost money and were not available to everyone. These messages helped some people keep family ties and business connections across cultural borders. However, short reports could leave out local viewpoints, so readers did not always understand another society fully or fairly.
- ③ Later technologies widened this exchange. Radio programs crossed borders, and people heard music, languages, and political speeches from places they had never visited. Today, video calls, messaging apps, and online posts allow people to speak directly with people in other cultures almost instantly. A student might ask a cousin abroad about a holiday instead of relying only on a textbook. Yet fast communication can also spread rumors or insulting posts widely. People need to check sources and listen carefully so technology builds understanding rather than conflict.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the undersea telegraph cable change the speed of communication between Ireland and Newfoundland? What cultural impact did this change have?

2 How did telegraph messages help some families and businesses connect across cultural borders?

3 Why might short telegraph reports fail to help readers understand another society fully?

4 What is one way modern communication technology can build cultural understanding, and what is one way it can cause harm?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences about a communication technology you use or know. Explain how it could help people learn about another culture, then explain one step people should take so it does not spread misunderstandings.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each communication technology named in the passage. Number three details that show an impact on connections among cultures, and circle one detail that shows a possible problem. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the undersea telegraph cable change the speed of communication between Ireland and Newfoundland? What cultural impact did this change have?	Messages could arrive in minutes instead of taking more than a week by ship. People could learn about events, inventions, and ideas from another culture much sooner.
2	How did telegraph messages help some families and businesses connect across cultural borders?	Families who had moved across oceans could send updates to relatives, and businesses could keep connections and make faster trade decisions.
3	Why might short telegraph reports fail to help readers understand another society fully?	Short reports could leave out local viewpoints, so readers might not get a full or fair understanding of another society.
4	What is one way modern communication technology can build cultural understanding, and what is one way it can cause harm?	People can speak directly with people in other cultures through video calls, messaging apps, or online posts. Fast communication can also spread rumors or insulting posts widely.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A video call lets students in Kenya and Canada share songs from school celebrations. They can ask questions and correct misunderstandings right away. They should check claims before sharing clips because false information can spread quickly.

Accept any accurate communication technology and a clear explanation of how it can connect people across cultures. The response must also name a sensible action, such as checking sources, listening carefully, or asking respectful questions.