

Changing Battlefields

Track how new tools changed military plans.

USII.4.d “examining the evolution of warfare tactics and technology including, but not limited to cavalry, air, submarine, chemical, trench warfare, and other technological advancements;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every weapon, vehicle, or system that changed warfare. Circle nearby words that tell how it changed where or how armies fought.

Technology Changes War

- ① During the Civil War, soldiers still used cavalry, troops on horseback, for scouting, raids, and quick messages. Yet rifled muskets fired farther and more accurately than older smoothbore guns. Artillery and repeating weapons also made open charges more dangerous. Commanders began to rely more on railroads and the telegraph. Trains moved troops and supplies, while telegraph wires carried orders quickly. These changes showed that industrial technology could change both how armies moved and how they fought.
- ② In World War I, machine guns and heavy artillery could strike soldiers crossing open ground. Many armies dug trench systems for protection, creating long battles in which land changed hands slowly. Barbed wire blocked attacks between trenches. Poison gas, including chlorine and mustard gas, injured or killed soldiers and forced troops to use gas masks. Submarines attacked ships beneath the water, threatening supply routes. Airplanes first helped crews observe enemy positions, then some carried weapons. Warfare now reached underground, underwater, and into the air.
- ③ During World War II, armies used tanks, trucks, and radios to move fast and coordinate attacks. Aircraft became major weapons. Bombers struck factories and cities, while fighter planes battled for control of the sky. Aircraft carriers allowed naval planes to operate far from land. Radar used radio waves to help detect incoming aircraft and ships. Code breaking and improved medicine also affected wartime decisions and survival. As technology changed, commanders had to combine land, sea, and air forces instead of planning each area separately.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two Civil War technologies helped commanders move troops, supplies, and orders more quickly? Explain the job of each.

2 Why did many armies use trench systems in World War I?

3 How did submarines and airplanes expand the places where World War I fighting could happen?

4 What did radar help forces detect, and what did aircraft carriers allow naval planes to do?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one technology from the passage. Write four sentences explaining how you would use it if you were planning a military operation, using at least two details from the passage and one likely advantage or challenge.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every weapon, vehicle, or system that changed warfare. Circle nearby words that tell how it changed where or how armies fought. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two Civil War technologies helped commanders move troops, supplies, and orders more quickly? Explain the job of each.	Railroads moved troops and supplies. The telegraph carried orders quickly.
2	Why did many armies use trench systems in World War I?	Machine guns and heavy artillery made crossing open ground dangerous, so trenches provided protection.
3	How did submarines and airplanes expand the places where World War I fighting could happen?	Submarines attacked ships underwater and threatened supply routes. Airplanes observed enemy positions and later carried weapons in the air.
4	What did radar help forces detect, and what did aircraft carriers allow naval planes to do?	Radar helped detect incoming aircraft and ships. Aircraft carriers allowed naval planes to operate far from land.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would use radar to watch for incoming aircraft and ships. It uses radio waves, so my forces could detect danger before seeing it. I would send warnings by radio and prepare fighter planes or ships. Radar would help us plan earlier, but people would still need to decide how to respond.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect each technology to a change in movement, protection, attack, observation, or planning. For the open response, look for four sentences, accurate passage details, and a reasonable tactical advantage or challenge.