

Tools Change America

Trace how new technology reshaped culture and the economy.

USII.9 "The student will apply history and social science skills by studying the iterative and ongoing advancements in science and technology; and describing the changes in American culture related to music, art, media, and communication..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each technology or tool in the passage. In the margin, write C beside a change in culture and E beside a change in work, banking, or business.

New Tools, New Patterns

- ① At the start of the twentieth century, new inventions changed how Americans heard news and entertainment. Radio broadcasts brought music, sports, and election reports into homes during the 1920s. Families could listen to the same programs even when they lived far apart. Later, television added moving pictures and became a major source of news and advertising. These media helped create shared popular culture, but they also gave businesses new ways to reach customers. Each new tool built on earlier methods of sending sounds and images.
- ② Scientific research and engineering also changed work and money. Factories used machines and assembly lines to make goods faster and in larger numbers. Later, computers helped companies track supplies, calculate pay, and organize information. Banks began using electronic systems to record accounts. Automated teller machines, first introduced in the late 1960s, let customers withdraw cash outside bank hours. As businesses adopted newer tools, workers learned new skills, and customers could buy and manage money in different ways.
- ③ In the late twentieth century, the internet connected computers across long distances. Email and websites sped up communication, while digital music and online videos gave people new choices for entertainment. In the twenty-first century, smartphones combined a phone, camera, computer, and internet connection. Social media let people share ideas quickly, but it also changed how news and advertising spread. Online stores, mobile banking, and delivery apps created new kinds of business. Technology keeps changing culture and the economy because each improvement can lead to new uses.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did radio and television change both American culture and business?

2 Give two steps in the passage's development of banking technology.

3 How did computers change company work? Name two changes.

4 Name one cultural change and one economic change connected to internet or smartphone technology.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one technology that is not named in the passage. In 3 or 4 sentences, explain how it improved over time and describe one change it caused in American culture and one change it caused in the economy.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each technology or tool in the passage. In the margin, write C beside a change in culture and E beside a change in work, banking, or business. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did radio and television change both American culture and business?	They helped create shared popular culture through common programs and news. They also gave businesses new ways to advertise to customers.
2	Give two steps in the passage's development of banking technology.	Banks used electronic systems to record accounts. Later, ATMs let customers withdraw cash outside bank hours.
3	How did computers change company work? Name two changes.	Computers helped companies track supplies, calculate pay, and organize information. Any two are correct.
4	Name one cultural change and one economic change connected to internet or smartphone technology.	Cultural changes include faster sharing of ideas, new entertainment choices, and changes in how news spreads. Economic changes include online stores, mobile banking, delivery apps, or new kinds of business.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

GPS first helped the military find locations. As GPS receivers became smaller and were added to smartphones, people could use maps while traveling. This changed culture by making it easier to meet and explore unfamiliar places. It also helped delivery and ride-share businesses plan routes.

Accept accurately stated examples from the passage that connect a technology to culture, banking, business, or industry. For the open response, accept another accurate technology if the student explains an improvement over time and includes both a cultural and an economic effect.