

## Inventions: Then and Now

Inventions solve problems and help make our lives easier. The Wright brothers invented the first airplane in 1903. The first flight traveled about half the length of a football field and lasted 12 seconds. Today's airplanes can travel long distances. Look at the ways that some inventions have changed over the years.

### Discover how some inventions have changed over time.

## Telephone

### Then



Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876. The first phone had

a trumpet-shaped part that was used to speak and to listen.

## Now



Many people carry small cell phones. They have no wires, unlike earlier phones. Cell phones let people talk all over the world.

## Calculator

### Then



The first calculator was invented in Asia nearly 500 years ago. People moved beads on a wooden rack to help them count.

## Now



Calculators come in many shapes and sizes. They can even be part of other inventions, including computers, watches, and cell phones.

# Television

## Then

Television became popular in the 1950s. The first TVs did not have a remote control. The screens showed pictures in black and white, and the sound was poor.

## Now

Many modern TVs have flat screens. Some can be hung on a wall. Today's televisions have very clear, colored pictures, and excellent sound.

## Then



Long ago, people kept track of time by recording the movement of the sun across the sky. The first clock was called a sundial.

## Now



Clocks keep time for us. With a quick glance at a clock or watch, we know the time of day. What time is it now?

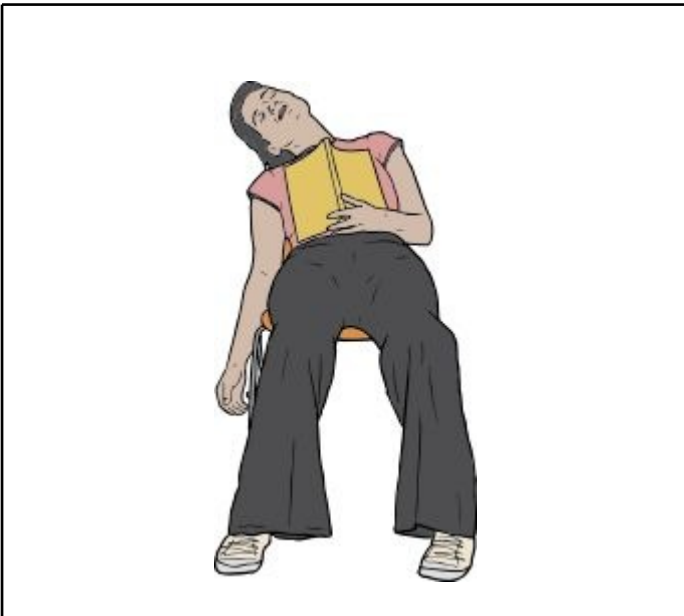
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to the passage, what is the purpose of inventions?
2. How has the telephone changed since it was invented?
3. Compare and contrast the television invented in the 1950s with the televisions many people watch today. How are these two TVs similar and how are they different?
4. What is the main idea of this passage?
5. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Nowadays calculators are often found on computers and cell phones, \_\_\_\_\_ the first calculator was a wooden rack with beads.

- A. but
- B. because
- C. so

6. Which person is NOT glancing at something?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The difference in telephones between then and now is:
  - A. Fewer people use telephones now.
  - B. Now telephones are trumpet-shaped.
  - C. Wireless phones can be carried.
  - D. Then, people all over the world used cell phones.
  
2. All of the following are examples of how televisions have changed, except:
  - A. Now televisions can have flat screens.
  - B. Now screens show pictures in color.
  - C. TVs today have remote controls.
  - D. TVs today have poor sound.
  
3. How is a clock from long ago different then a clock from today?
  - A. An abacus helped people keep time using a clock from long ago.
  - B. The moon helped people keep time using a clock from long ago.
  - C. The sun helped people keep time using a clock from long ago.
  - D. A wristwatch helped people keep time using a clock from long ago.
  
4. Which item below is an invention mentioned in this article?
  - A. calendar
  - B. refrigerator
  - C. egg
  - D. calculator
  
5. Which invention mentioned in the article do you think has changed the most?  
Compare and contrast the old and new invention.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is a meaning of the word **solve**?

- A. find the answer
- B. stay safe from
- C. give expression to

2. What is another meaning of the word **solve**?

- A. include or contain
- B. bring to an end
- C. settle, as of a debt

**Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.**

3. I \_\_\_\_\_ easy cases and hard cases every week.

- A. solving
- B. solves
- C. unsolved
- D. resolved
- E. solve
- F. solved
- G. resolve

4. The method scientists use in \_\_\_\_\_ problems is called the scientific method.

- A. solving
- B. solves
- C. unsolved
- D. resolved
- E. solve
- F. solved
- G. resolve

5. Yesterday, she \_\_\_\_\_ the mystery of the gooey, dirty, murky water.

- A. solving
- B. solves
- C. unsolved
- D. resolved
- E. solve
- F. solved
- G. resolve

6. After last New Year's Day, I \_\_\_\_\_ to do my homework earlier on the weekends.

- A. solving
- B. solves
- C. unsolved
- D. resolved
- E. solve
- F. solved
- G. resolve

7. Each time the same issue comes up, \_\_\_\_\_ it and move on to other things.

- A. solving
- B. solves
- C. unsolved
- D. resolved
- E. solve
- F. solved
- G. resolve



8. Every time her math teacher gives her new math problems, she \_\_\_\_\_ them all.

- A. solving
- B. solves
- C. unsolved
- D. resolved
- E. solve
- F. solved
- G. resolve

9. That is a mystery that remains \_\_\_\_\_ even today.

- A. solving
- B. solves
- C. unsolved
- D. resolved
- E. solve
- F. solved
- G. resolve

10. Please write your own sentence using the word **solve**.

11. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **solve** so that you can use it when you write or speak?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is a meaning of the word **discover**?

- A. take willingly
- B. expose or uncover
- C. take in solid food

2. What is another meaning of the word **discover**?

- A. bring to mind
- B. find something new
- C. cover from sight

**Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.**

3. Her first big accomplishment came when she \_\_\_\_\_ a comet.

- A. discovery
- B. discovered
- C. discover
- D. discovers
- E. discoverer
- F. discoveries
- G. discovering

4. She would go on to \_\_\_\_\_ seven more.

- A. discovery
- B. discovered
- C. discover
- D. discovers
- E. discoverer
- F. discoveries
- G. discovering

5. It often takes many scientists working together to make a scientific \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. discovery
- B. discovered
- C. discover
- D. discovers
- E. discoverer
- F. discoveries
- G. discovering

6. Scientists make new \_\_\_\_\_ every day.

- A. discovery
- B. discovered
- C. discover
- D. discovers
- E. discoverer
- F. discoveries
- G. discovering

7. Each one of them is about \_\_\_\_\_ the unknown.

- A. discovery
- B. discovered
- C. discover
- D. discovers
- E. discoverer
- F. discoveries
- G. discovering

8. He checks the gas tank and \_\_\_\_\_ that it is empty!

- A. discovery
- B. discovered
- C. discover
- D. discovers
- E. discoverer
- F. discoveries
- G. discovering

9. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a new strain of virus gets to name it.

- A. discovery
- B. discovered
- C. discover
- D. discovers
- E. discoverer
- F. discoveries
- G. discovering

10. Please write your own sentence using the word **discover**.

11. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **discover** so that you can use it when you write or speak?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is a meaning of the word **invent**?

- A. create something fictional
- B. supply with water
- C. break and turn over earth especially with a plow

2. What is another meaning of the word **invent**?

- A. get from ancestors
- B. get by special effort
- C. make something new

**Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.**

3. When a new product is \_\_\_\_\_, people need to give it a name, too.

- A. invention
- B. inventor
- C. invent
- D. invented
- E. inventors
- F. inventions

4. His \_\_\_\_\_ has helped save many lives.

- A. invention
- B. inventor
- C. invent
- D. invented
- E. inventors
- F. inventions

5. Like many \_\_\_\_\_, calculators keep getting better.

- A. invention
- B. inventor
- C. invent
- D. invented
- E. inventors
- F. inventions

6. You don't have to have white hair and wrinkles to be an \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. invention
- B. inventor
- C. invent
- D. invented
- E. inventors
- F. inventions

7. He likes to \_\_\_\_\_ new things.

- A. invention
- B. inventor
- C. invent
- D. invented
- E. inventors
- F. inventions

8. Scientists and \_\_\_\_\_ are often pathfinders.

- A. invention
- B. inventor
- C. invent
- D. invented
- E. inventors
- F. inventions

9. Please write your own sentence using the word **invent**.

10. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **invent** so that you can use it when you write or speak?