

## Must-See TV?

# A new study uncovers surprises about kids and TV.



iStockphoto

Do you remember what happened on *SpongeBob SquarePants* yesterday? The day before? If so, you may be in need of a TV time-out!

Kids are watching more TV than they watched before, researchers say. A 2009 study found that children spend more than 28 hours per week in front of a TV. That includes time spent playing video games.

Kids ages 6 to 11 in the United States watch more than three hours of TV each day. Ten years ago, children watched only about two hours and 40 minutes of TV each day. That means kids today watch almost five hours more TV each week.

Why the increase? Experts say more TV programs today are **focused**, or aimed, at kids. "There is more ... than ever before," Patricia McDonough told *WR News*. She helped research the study.

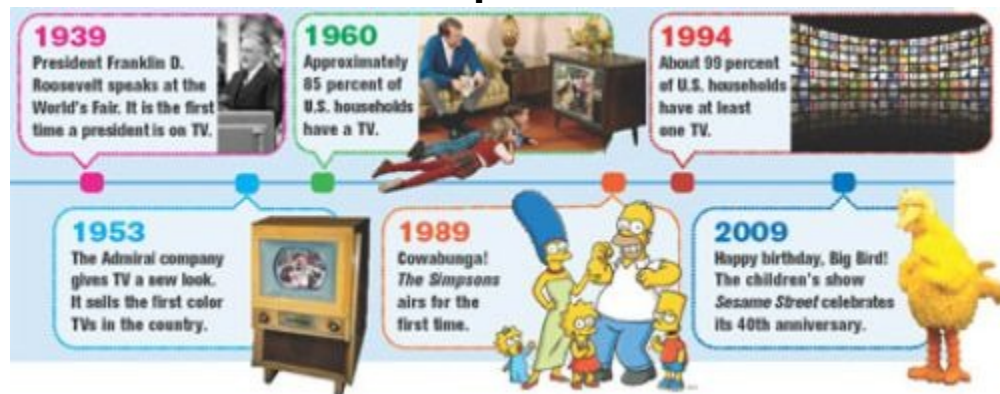
Some people want to pull the plug on kids' TV time. Researchers say that children who watch shows for more than three hours a day do not do as well in school.

Not all TV is a brain buster, though. Some experts say **educational** programs can make kids smarter. Something that is educational helps you learn. One example is *BrainSurge*. Some say the quiz show helps kids learn facts.

How do you know whether a show is educational? Think about what you learn from watching, explains **media** expert Aletha Huston. Media are ways to reach people. They include TV, magazines, and the Internet. But, Huston warns, "even if [the show is] really good ... limit the amount you watch. Get off the couch and do something else."

## TV Time

The first TVs went on sale in the United States in 1938. Read the time line to learn about some other important events in TV history.



Roosevelt: Corbis; Family: Alamy; screens: iStockphoto; Admiral: [www.tvhistory.tv](http://www.tvhistory.tv), courtesy of Bruce Buchanan; Simpsons: Fox TV; Big Bird: Getty Images

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

1. According to the text, what do kids ages 6 to 11 in the United States do each day?

- A. watch more than three hours of TV
- B. watch more than four hours of TV
- C. watch more than five hours of TV
- D. watch more than six hours of TV

2. According to the passage, some people argue that watching TV can help kids. What evidence from the passage supports this argument?

- A. TV programs today are focused, or aimed, at kids.
- B. Educational TV programs can make kids smarter.
- C. Kids today watch almost five hours more TV each week.
- D. Kids are watching more TV than they watched before.

3. Some experts say educational programs can make kids smarter.

What evidence from the text supports their argument?

- A. "Ten years ago, children watched only about two hours and 40 minutes of TV each day."
- B. "A 2009 study found that children spend more than 28 hours per week in front of a TV."
- C. "Researchers say that children who watch shows for more than three hours a day do not do as well in school."
- D. "One example is *BrainSurge*. Some say the quiz show helps kids learn facts."

4. Based on the information in the text, why might kids be watching more TV than before?

- A. There are more TV programs that are interesting to adults.
- B. There are less TV programs that are interesting to adults.
- C. There are more TV programs that are interesting to kids.
- D. There are less TV programs that are interesting to kids.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. A new study looks at the relationship that today's kids have with TV.
- B. A new study looks at the ways the media reaches people.
- C. A new study looks at how educational programs can make kids smarter.
- D. A new study looks at why watching more TV can make kids smarter.

6. Why might the author have included the timeline illustration at the end of the passage?

- A. to downplay how little TV has changed over time
- B. to draw the reader's attention away from educational TV programs
- C. to illustrate how much TV has changed over time
- D. to draw the reader's attention to educational TV programs

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Ten years ago, kids watched only about two hours and 40 minutes of TV each day. Today, \_\_\_\_\_, kids watch more than three hours of TV each day.

- A. before
- B. however
- C. meanwhile
- D. therefore

8. According to researchers, how can watching TV be harmful to kids?

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

9. According to some experts, how can watching TV be helpful to kids?

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

10. Form an argument for or against watching TV every day.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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

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

- A. a person with special knowledge or ability who performs skillfully
- B. restrict or confine
- C. group of guns or missile launchers operated together at one place

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

- A. to restrict
- B. a long seat
- C. waste matter

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

3. Elephant's eyes are small; because of the position and size of the head and neck they have \_\_\_\_\_ peripheral vision.

- A. limits
- B. limit
- C. limitation
- D. limited
- E. unlimited
- F. limitations
- G. limiting

4. In California, lawmakers have tried to put a \_\_\_\_\_ on how heavy a textbook can be.

- A. limits
- B. limit
- C. limitation
- D. limited
- E. unlimited
- F. limitations
- G. limiting

5. All other electronic devices with screens, including TVs and even cell phones, were off \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. limits
- B. limit
- C. limitation
- D. limited
- E. unlimited
- F. limitations
- G. limiting

6. For all its \_\_\_\_\_, the Emancipation Proclamation probably made genuine emancipation inevitable.

- A. limits
- B. limit
- C. limitation
- D. limited
- E. unlimited
- F. limitations
- G. limiting

7. Within these broad divisions there can be an \_\_\_\_\_ number of subdivisions.

- A. limits
- B. limit
- C. limitation
- D. limited
- E. unlimited
- F. limitations
- G. limiting

8. \_\_\_\_\_ factors affect the size of the population.

- A. limits
- B. limit
- C. limitation
- D. limited
- E. unlimited
- F. limitations
- G. limiting

9. Another \_\_\_\_\_ involves choices that you make yourself.

- A. limits
- B. limit
- C. limitation
- D. limited
- E. unlimited
- F. limitations
- G. limiting

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

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