

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## A ChatGPT Alternate History Experiment

Have you ever wondered what would happen if one tiny moment in history went differently?

What if the **printing press** was never invented?

What if the **internet** existed in ancient Rome?

What if **electricity** hadn't been discovered?

These kinds of "what if" questions are called **alternate history** or **counterfactual thinking** - imagining how the world might have changed if a key event turned out another way.

ChatGPT can help you explore these ideas by simulating how history might unfold under new conditions. But remember: ChatGPT doesn't *know* what would happen - it's imagining based on patterns and facts it has learned. Your job is to think critically about whether its ideas make sense and what they reveal about how history actually works.



### Directions

#### 1. Pick a Historical "What If" Question

Choose an event or invention that changed the world. Then flip it!

Examples:

"What if the American Revolution never happened?"

"What if phones were invented in the 1800s?"

"What if the moon landing failed?"

"What if the Black Death never occurred?"

**My What-If Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Ask ChatGPT for Its Version of History

Open ChatGPT and type your prompt:

"Imagine that [your what-if scenario]. Explain how the world might be different today."

Read the answer carefully. Take notes on how ChatGPT's version of history changes politics, technology, or daily life.

**Summary of ChatGPT's Response:**

---

---

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Be the Historian: Analyze It!

a. Does ChatGPT's answer sound logical or far-fetched? Why?

---

---

b. What real historical facts did it use to support the new version?

---

---

c. What details or perspectives might it have missed?

---

---

d. How would people's lives be different in this alternate timeline?

---

---

### 4. Write Your Mini Analysis (Your Turn to Rewrite History!)

Using your notes, write a short paragraph (5-7 sentences) explaining:

- How ChatGPT's version of history changed the world
- What you think would *really* happen, based on what you know

**Your Alternate History Analysis:**

---

---

---

---

### Reflection

1. What does this activity teach you about *cause and effect* in history?
  
2. Why do you think it's important to question how realistic or fair ChatGPT's "what-if" answers are?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Better Prompt (Improvement):** "Please quiz me on Ancient Egypt and explain *why* each answer is correct."

### Reflection

1. **Learning Style:**

I realized I learn best when I answer questions out loud or type them, instead of just rereading notes.

2. **How It Helped:**

ChatGPT made studying feel more like a game. It asked me new questions I hadn't thought of before.

3. **Why Notes Still Matter:**

Because ChatGPT could make a mistake or miss something my teacher wants us to know, I should still study my class materials too.