

Name _____



Old Tech, New Links

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Think about the **historical context** of the passage. Identify a **modern event or situation** that shares similar themes, challenges, or ideas. Then, explain how the two contexts connect and why the parallel matters. Answer in complete sentences, using evidence from both the passage and modern examples.

The Telegraph Revolution

In the 1840s, the invention of the telegraph changed how people communicated across distances. Messages that once took weeks by letter could now be delivered in minutes through wires. Businesses quickly used this new technology to send updates about markets and trade. Families, too, found comfort in faster communication with relatives far away. Some people, however, worried that the speed of communication would overwhelm society and disrupt traditions of slower, more thoughtful correspondence. Despite concerns, the telegraph became a symbol of progress, shrinking the world and bringing people closer than ever before.

1. What problem or challenge did the telegraph solve in the 1840s?
2. What worries did some people have about the new technology?
3. Identify a modern invention or technology that parallels the telegraph's impact. Explain why.
4. How do both the telegraph and the modern invention change the way people connect with each other?
5. Why is it important to notice parallels between past and present innovations?