

The First Transmission Answer Key

1. **Time Period:** The passage takes place in the mid-19th century, specifically 1844, as stated in the first sentence.

Teacher Note: Students should identify the exact year mentioned and connect it to the broader 1800s.

2. **Geographical Setting:** Washington, D.C. and Baltimore are named as the starting points, but the broader setting is the United States during the 1800s.

Teacher Note: Encourage students to notice both the specific cities and the national context as telegraph lines expanded.

3. **Significance of the Setting:** The mid-1800s was a time when communication was slow, often requiring days or weeks. The setting highlights why the telegraph was revolutionary—it transformed business, politics, and daily life by connecting cities and states quickly.

Teacher Note: Push students to connect how historical context amplifies the invention's importance.

4. **Alternate Setting Reflection:** In the 21st century, the telegraph would not have the same impact because people already use instant communication tools like phones and the internet. Its significance in the 1800s came from solving the problem of slow communication.

Teacher Note: This question helps students compare past and present, reinforcing why context shapes meaning.