

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Blackout Night

**Directions:** Read the historical passage below. Notice how the past continuous tense is used to describe background actions that were happening during a big event. Then answer the questions in complete

sentences using the **past continuous tense**.

On the night of November 9, 1965, much of the northeastern United States was suddenly without power. Families were sitting in their living rooms when the lights went out. People were cooking dinners on stoves, and children were doing homework at their desks. In the streets, cars were honking because traffic lights were not working. Some neighbors were lighting candles, while others were helping each other find flashlights. All across the city, people were waiting and wondering what had caused the blackout.

1. Where were families sitting when the lights went out?

2. What were people doing in their kitchens?

3. What were children doing at their desks?

4. What were cars doing in the streets?

5. How were neighbors helping each other?