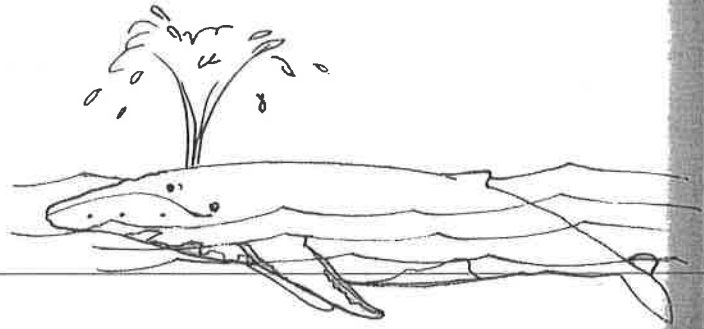


A Whaling Community

In the 1800s, whaling was a big business. Factories built ships and made ropes and sails. Many items were made from whales. Some factories made candles from whale oil to light homes and lighthouses. The oil was used to grease machine parts. It also helped make paint and soaps. Whale fat was used to make hand creams. Products were made from whalebone, too. Fishing poles and umbrellas are products that were made from whalebone.



Tourists visited whaling towns to see the ships. They bought paintings of ships and shopped for spices and other goods brought back from the sailing trips. This brought more money to the whaling community. In 1840, New Bedford, Massachusetts, was the largest whaling community in the United States. New Bedford chose whaling because the town is on the coast. The town has a harbor that could hold hundreds of ships. A harbor is a safe place for ships to anchor. **A town can do well when it makes the most of its gifts.**

Whaling created many jobs. Many men and boys went to New Bedford looking for jobs hunting whales at sea. They liked the idea of the adventure, although the work was quite dangerous. Hundreds of ships sailed to the port of New Bedford each year. Blacksmiths made tools for sailors. Carpenters built boats and houses. People everywhere wanted whale oil. Well, at least they did until 1859! That is when the first petroleum well was built. Petroleum is a thick, oily liquid found underground. It was easier to get, so it replaced whale oil.

Without whaling, New Bedford had to change. Factories started producing wool and cotton cloth. But New Bedford will always be a community famous for its whaling past.

Name _____ Date _____

Use what you read in the passage to answer the questions.

1. What is whaling?

2. When was whaling a big business?

3. What was the largest whaling community in 1840?

4. Name at least three products that came from whales.

5. Why did people stop wanting whale oil?

6. Why was whaling helpful to the community of New Bedford?

7. What do people do in New Bedford today?

8. What is the meaning of the sentence in boldface? Explain it in your own words.

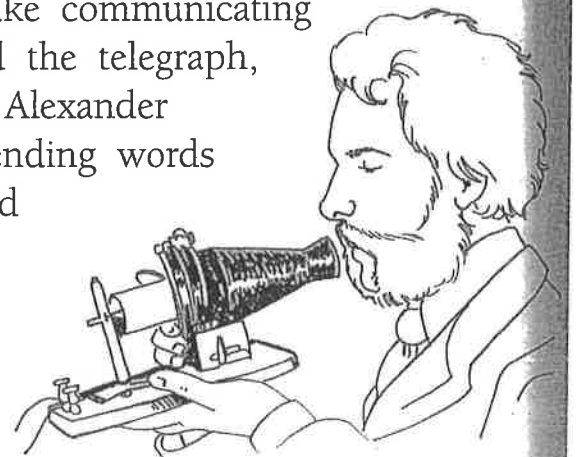
Inventions

How have you communicated information lately? Did you talk to someone, write a note, send an e-mail or text message? How has information been communicated to you? Did you watch TV or read a newspaper, magazine, or newsletter? Get a Tweet or chat online? All of these things are compliments of communication technology. To **communicate** is to exchange information. Technology is the use of science knowledge for practical purposes. Technology helps us create new things, such as ink in pens. It also creates the electronics in cell phones and other technology tools.

Daily life was very different without the technologies we have today. For thousands of years, people lived their lives by the rising and setting of the sun. There was no TV, and even possessing a book was a luxury! If you wished to talk to someone in your town, you walked to their house. Or you might ride your horse. If the person lived far away, you could send a letter by horse.

Over time, communication technology changed the way people lived. People found ways to make communicating easier. In 1844, Samuel Morse invented the telegraph, which sent code, not words. In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, sending words over wires. In the 1890s, a man named G. Marconi invented the radio. In the 1950s, people started to buy TVs.

Communication technology changed how people work. Work has gotten easier and in many ways safer. Today you can easily telephone a friend, e-mail, or chat online. The future is exciting. Maybe you'll try your hand at inventing!



Name _____ Date _____

Use what you read in the passage to answer the questions.

1. What happened in 1876?

2. What happened in the 1950s?

3. What does the word **communicate** mean in this passage?

4. How did technology change the way people worked?

5. What sentence best supports the main idea?

6. What are three examples of communication technology?

7. How was life different in the days without electronics?

8. What examples were given for how we get our news?
