

Unit 6: Impact of Technology

Key Connections:

- Technological innovations in communication, education, transportation, and manufacturing processes have impacted migration, settlement, economic development, and social values.

Topic One: Innovation in Everyday Life

Connections to the unit content: Students examine the impact of inventions and technology on everyday life. Students learn that technology has helped people to live longer. Advancements in medical technology dramatically increase the life expectancy of people. Knowledge of basic health and sanitation, particularly lacking during industrialization, have also kept people from getting sick. Students learn that new household inventions make domestic life easier and more convenient. Students examine the role of households on the economy and the impact of household products on supply & demand and the consumer economy.

Key Questions:

- How did advancements in medical technology impact people's lives?
 - What were the effects of household inventions on domestic life?
 - What were the effects of household inventions on the economy?

Description:

Students examine the impact of medical advancements and household technology on the everyday lives of people.

Activities:

- Students answer the following question: How has technology impacted everyday life and the economy?
 - Students will have a discussion on the impact of advancements on the lives of people, including overall life expectancy.

Topic Two: Our Shrinking World

Connections to the unit content: Students examine the impact of transportation, communication, and banking technology on the interactions between people in the United States and the world. Students learn that advancements in transportation technology make movement between places easier, encouraging migration as well as the spread of new ideas and culture. Students understand that advancements in communication technology also make it faster and easier to spread ideas, culture, and news. Finally, students understand that technology has enabled monetary transactions to become faster and further away

Key Questions:

- What are the effects of transportation technology?
 - How has communication technology changed the way that people interact with each other?

Description:

Students investigate the social and economic impacts of major innovations in transportation and communication technology throughout the 20th century on the United States.

Activities:

- Students will engage in an activity explaining how innovations have increased interactions between people throughout American and the world .

Priority Content and Concepts:

- Define the terms technology and innovation, and explain their importance (impacts on everyday life, can have economic impacts, impacts on workforce, impacts on health and life expectancy).
- Explain how technology has changed life overtime (home appliances, medical technology, transportation and communication technologies).
- Discuss major innovations in transportation and communication technology in the 20th century (automobiles, telephones, television, radio, airplanes, computers, internet, social media).
- Explain how developments in transportation and communication technology has affected the economy
- Provide examples of human, natural, and capital resources using transportation and communication technological advancements (for the example of an airplane: human resources are needed to build an airplane, natural resources are needed for the parts and fuel, capital resources are needed to build the factory where the airplane is assembled).
- Explain the profit and risk of developing new technologies.
- Define and give examples of the economic terms scarcity and demand.
- Explain how scarcity impacts price
- Discuss the roles of household incomes in the economy (being producers, consuming goods and services, creating demand for products, paying taxes).
- Discuss the roles of businesses in the economy (providing jobs, providing goods and services; consuming goods, services, and natural resources).
- Discuss the roles of banks in the economy (providing capital resources to businesses).
- Discuss the roles of government in the economy (using taxes to purchase goods and provide services, providing jobs).
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of using debit cards/checking account, credit cards, and cash.
- Explain how increasing skills can allow people to meet more needs and wants.
- Explain how increasing skills can lead to increased income.