

Name _____

Television

Television gave people a window to see other people, places, and events around the world. More than 98 percent of all US homes have a television. Television is now an **important** form of communication, allowing people instant access to current events.

1. What clue does the title give you about the topic of this passage? _____
2. Does the first paragraph narrow down the topic? If so, how? _____
3. Rewrite the last sentence, using a synonym for **important**. _____
4. What is the topic sentence of this paragraph? _____

Day 1

Television does not have just one inventor. In the 1800s, an Italian inventor named Guglielmo Marconi set the stage when he discovered how to send signals through the air as electromagnetic waves. His invention was the radio. In the early 1900s, a young American named Philo Farnsworth had an idea to send pictures as well as sound through the air. This led to the invention of the electronic television camera.

1. What other invention set the stage for the invention of the television? _____
2. About how many years passed between the two inventions? _____
3. What was the next step? _____
4. About how many years have passed between that invention and now? _____

Day 2

At about the same time, an American scientist named Vladimir Zworykin invented the iconoscope and the kinescope. The iconoscope was a television camera. The kinescope was a picture tube to receive and show the picture. In 1929, Zworykin made the first television system.

1. What were the next steps in the invention of television? _____
2. Inventors from which country were involved in the most steps? _____
3. Do you know anyone who was alive in 1929? _____
4. Do you think Farnsworth or Zworykin made a lot of money from their invention of the television? _____

Day 3

How does a television work? First, light and sound waves are changed into electronic signals by cameras and microphones. Next, these electronic signals are passed through the air and received by individual television sets. Last, the television set unscrambles the signals.

1. How many steps are there to get to the picture you see on your television? _____
2. What are those steps? _____

3. Which kinds of waves are changed into electronic signals? _____
4. What is the most important thing about television for you? _____

Day 4

Name _____

Philo Farnsworth and Television

What would you say if someone asked you who invented the television? If you do not know the answer, you are not alone. Most people do not know that Philo Farnsworth is credited with inventing the modern television.

Farnsworth was born in a log cabin in 1906. When he was 12, his family moved to a ranch. This put Farnsworth miles away from his school, so he rode his horse to get there.

Farnsworth was very curious about electrons and electricity. He asked one of his teachers to tutor him outside of class and to let him sit in on a course for older students. The teacher agreed. When Farnsworth was only 14, he came up with the idea of sending television pictures without using moving parts.

How did this invention work? Moving images, or pictures, were broken into pinpoints of light. These pinpoints were changed into electrical impulses, or movements. Then, the impulses were collected in the television set and changed back to light. People could then see the images.

When he died in 1971, Farnsworth held more than 300 patents for his inventions. A major magazine listed Farnsworth as one of the 100 greatest scientists and thinkers of the twentieth century. In addition, in 1983 the US Postal Service issued a stamp in his honor.

1. What is the main idea of this passage? _____

2. What is the main topic of paragraph 2? _____

3. What is the main topic of paragraph 3? _____

4. What is the main topic of paragraph 4? _____

5. What is the main topic of paragraph 5? _____
