

# People Who Shaped Communities

Grade 3 • SOCIAL-STUDIES • Students identify how selected explorers, inventors, and leaders contributed to communities and influenced life over time. • Standards: D2.His.3.3-5, D2.His.4.3-5

*Read each clue about an explorer, inventor, or leader. Then answer the question about how that person helped shape communities or changed life over time.*

1. Benjamin Franklin invented a special kind of eyeglasses that help people see both near and far. What are these eyeglasses called?
2. Thomas Edison developed a practical light bulb, which allowed people to have light in their homes at night. How did this change daily life in communities?
3. George Washington led the American army during the Revolutionary War and later became the first president. Why was being the first president important for our country?
4. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876. How did the telephone change the way people in different communities could communicate?
5. Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery and then returned to the South many times to help other enslaved people reach freedom. What was the name of the secret network of safe places she used?
6. The Wright Brothers built and flew the first successful airplane in 1903. Explain one way that airplanes changed how communities connect with each other.
7. Susan B. Anthony worked for many years to help women gain the right to vote. How did women getting the right to vote change communities?
8. Christopher Columbus sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492, seeking a new route to Asia but reaching the Americas instead. How did his voyages lead to lasting changes between Europe and the Americas?
9. Martin Luther King Jr. led peaceful protests to end unfair laws that treated people differently because of their race. Explain how his leadership changed communities

across America.

**10.** Lewis and Clark led an expedition from 1804 to 1806 to explore the western part of North America. Describe two ways their journey helped communities grow in the western United States.

# Answer Key — People Who Shaped Communities

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. Bifocals (*Franklin invented bifocals to help people who needed different lenses for reading and distance viewing.*)
2. People could work, read, and do activities after dark without using candles or oil lamps. (*Electric light made homes safer and extended productive hours into the evening.*)
3. He set examples and created traditions that future presidents would follow. (*Washington established many practices and showed how a president should lead the new nation.*)
4. People could talk to each other across long distances without traveling or writing letters. (*The telephone allowed instant voice communication between distant locations.*)
5. The Underground Railroad (*The Underground Railroad was a network of secret routes and safe houses that helped enslaved people escape to free states.*)
6. People and goods could travel much faster between distant cities and countries. (*Air travel greatly reduced travel time compared to ships, trains, or cars.*)
7. Women could help choose leaders and make decisions about laws that affected their lives and families. (*Women's suffrage gave half the population a voice in government and community decisions.*)
8. His voyages led to increased exploration, trade, and permanent contact between Europe and the Americas. (*Columbus's journeys opened sustained interaction between the Eastern and Western hemispheres.*)
9. His work helped change laws so that all people would have equal rights and be treated fairly regardless of race. (*King's leadership was instrumental in advancing civil rights legislation and promoting racial equality.*)
10. They mapped new lands and rivers, and they shared information about resources and routes that helped settlers move west. (*Their detailed maps and reports provided valuable knowledge that encouraged westward expansion and settlement.*)