

Title: _____

What exactly is a family? The traditional idea of a nuclear family, meaning two married adults who live together and take care of their children, is becoming less and less common in the industrialized world. In the United States, for example, only about one quarter of all families have this structure. In fact, there has been such far-reaching social changes over the past century that the word *family* is becoming hard to define.

The concept of family has to consider such social changes as industrialization, increased geographical mobility, and women's progress toward gaining equal rights. Other considerations include increases in single-parent families, cohabitation (people living together without getting married), divorced couples who marry other people, and other increasingly accepted alternative family structures.

Questions to answer:

1. What is meant by "traditional nuclear family"
2. Why is the word "family" hard to define today?
3. What changes have affected family structure over the past century?
4. In your own words, how would you define the word "family" today?
5. What might be a good title for the above-mentioned composition? Write your title on the space provided above.