



Student Activity Guide: Examining the Societal Impact of Innovation
Unit 5 Lesson 1

Name _____

Part 1: Analyze the Impact of an Innovation on Society

Innovation: The Printing Press

Aspect of Society	Impact
Education	
Religion	
Politics	
Culture	
Class	
Law	
Economy	
Health	
Science	



Part 2: Small Impact versus Big Impact

Look through the list of innovations in the table below. Circle the 5 innovations that you think have had the greatest impact on society.

Wearable Technology	Word Processing software	Laser Printers	Photoshop and other Graphics Programs	Language Translation Software
Face Recognition by computers	Portable music players	Texting	3-D Printers	Fax Machines
GPS	Voice Mail	Video calls	Encryption	Photo sharing Apps
DNA sequencing	Email	The newest gaming platform	HD TV	Facebook
Wi-fi	Search Engines	Collaboration software (Google Docs)	The creation of the Internet	Ear buds

Be prepared to share the reasons for your answers with your classmates.



Part 3: Extended Learning

Innovation: _____

[illegible]



Possible Answers to Activity 2

Innovation: The Printing Press

Aspect of Society	Impact (answers may vary)
Education	Books became cheaper, and the primary means of learning shifted from listening to reading. More people became educated.
Religion	The ability to make religious texts available to a large body of people led to new interpretations of those works. Also, certain books were banned based on religious reasons.
Politics	People could print their political views and send them out for wide distribution and influence.
Culture	Written literature became a form of entertainment and a means of communicating and spreading a culture to other parts of the world.
Class	Class became a more fluid aspect of society and the middle class grew proportional to the upper and lower classes. People who could afford books and who could pay for an education had a big advantage over people who did not have much money. However, those who became educated from lower classes became more socially mobile.
Law	The growth of plagiarism led to the creation of copyright laws.
Economy	The printing industry thrived. People who could read attained new jobs that required higher skills. New industries emerged.
Health	Successful medical practices were published and replicated. Modern medicine became more available. Individuals could read and learn about taking care of their own health and were not as dependent upon folk-lore or the knowledge and skills of local individuals.
Science	Scientists were able to collaborate and share ideas more easily. Scientific experiments that proved theories were able to be explained and reproduced by others, adding to their credibility.