

Can You Imagine a World Without It?

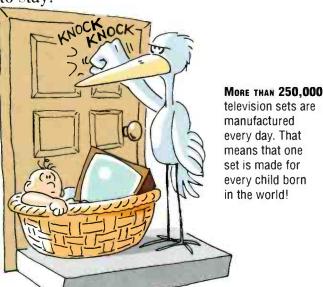
Many people who are alive today know what it's like to live in a world without television. Television as we know it is only about 40 years old. Yet it's so much a part of our lives that it seems as if it always existed.

Some people think that the years before television were a better time. They claim that families talked more and did more things together. More books were read. People used their imaginations more fully. People got more outdoor exercise.

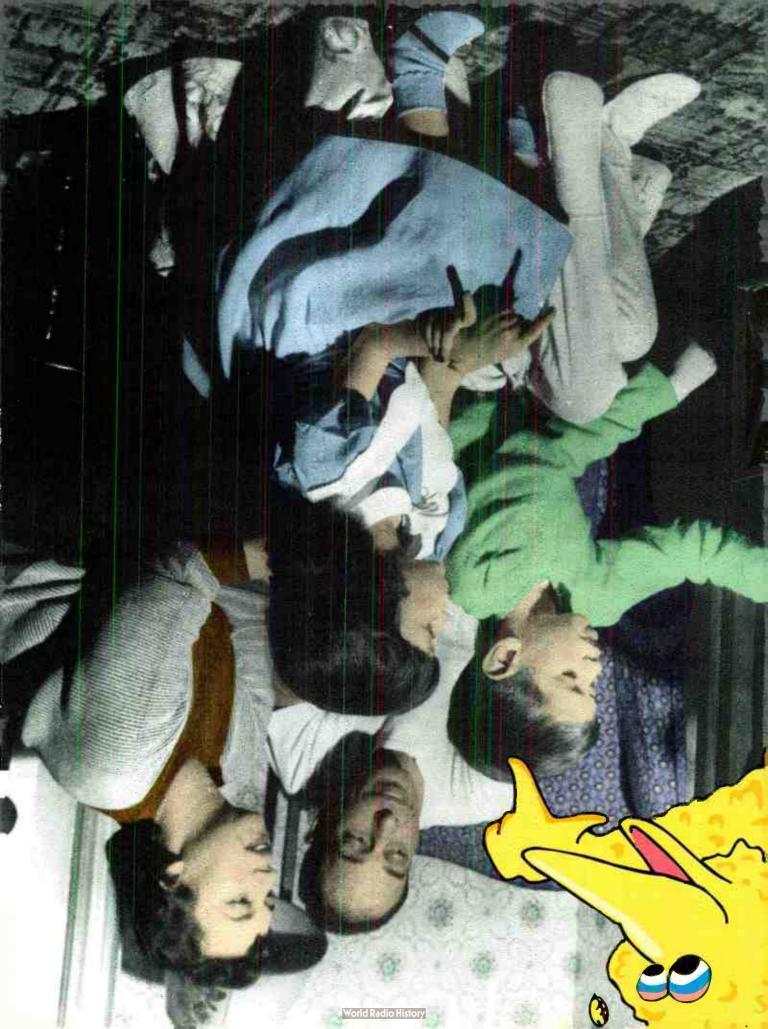
But others disagree. They claim that television is a powerful educational tool. It informs us of what goes on in the world, from a famine in Africa to a local fire. It entertains us. It helps shape our opinions about everything from politics to fashion. It helps us understand how people live, work, and struggle.

Experts will probably continue to argue about television's value. But everyone agrees that it is one of the most significant inventions of the 20th century.

Love it or hate it, television is here to stay!







The Early Days

The earliest experiments in television took place in the late 19th century. After the invention of the telephone in the 1870s, scientists began to wonder if pictures—like sound—could be transmitted through the air. However, it took many years of trial and error to get things right, because television cameras and receivers

are complicated instruments.

The earliest television shows were often called telecasts or broadcasts. They were usually still pictures transmitted from one place to another. However, in May 1928, General Electric's Schenectady station became the world's first regularly operating television station, simulcasting programs with GE's radio station for half an hour, three days a week. Television



1925



1927

1930



1939

IN ENGLAND IN

1925, John Logie Baird used a Nipkow scanning disk, which looks over an image and breaks it down line by line, and a neon gas lamp to transmit a living image by television for the first time ever. The picture was of a 15-year-old boy, who became the first person ever "on television."





In 1930, PHILD T. Farnsworth (above) was awarded a patent for electronic television. Around the same time, Vladimir K.

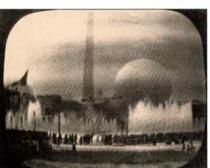
Zworykin (below) a Russian-born U.S. citizen, created an electronic camera tube. Many consider both men to be the fathers of modern television technology.



In 1927, CHARLES Francis Jenkins set up the first intercity transmission in the United States. The image

of Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover was seen on a 2.3-inch screen. The screen was in the office of the president of American Telephone and Telegraph. The inventors could not transmit sound yet, so the two men talked by telephone.

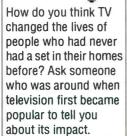






PRESIDENT FRANKLIN
D. Roosevelt
appeared on television in 1939,
broadcast by the
National Broadcasting Company,
to introduce the
World's Fair to the
American public.

THINK PIECE!



then merely added pictures to the sound that came from the radio.

In the early 1930s, telecasts were usually short and simple. Not many people had television sets to receive the pictures anyway! At the 1939 World's Fair in New York, television was a bit hit. That year, Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first president to appear on television.

By the early 1940s, there were 23 tele-

vision stations in the United States. But soon World War II brought a halt to the television industry. After the war, however, the craze to buy and watch TV really began.

By 1947, there were 170,000 TV sets in the United States. By the end of 1948. 250,000 people owned television sets. Two years later, that number had increased to over 4 million!

1947

1947

1948

1940-50



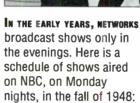
On SEPTEMBER 30, 1947, a World

It's Howny Doggy Time! The first major children's show, "Howdy Doody," starred Howdy Doody, a puppet, and "Buffalo" Bob Smith. It had 2,543 daily performancesfive days a week for 13 years! "Sesame Street" has appeared five days a week since 1969-over 20 vears! But "Sesame Street" is on film. "Howdy Doody" was aired live, mistakes and all. The show had a live studio audience of kids known as the Peanut Gallery.









7:00 Kukla, Fran and Ollie 7:30 The American Song Camel Newsreel 8:00 Chevrolet on Broadway 8:30 Americana Quiz 9:00 Gillette Cavalcade of Sports How does this compare with the lineup you see on

an average night?



IN THE LATE 1940s and early 1950s, many people couldn't afford to buy TV sets. Some gathered in front of store windows to watch their favorite programs. Restaurant owners said that business was slowest at 8 p.m. on Tuesdays. That's when the popular "Texaco Star Theater," starring Milton Berle, was on. The show ran from 1948 to 1956. Berle told jokes, wore silly costumes, and had goofy fun with his quests.



Series game was

Brooklyn Dodgers,

now a Los Ange-

les team, played

the New York

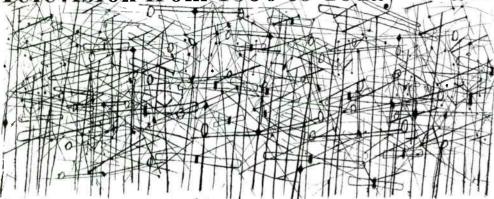
Yankees. (The Yankees won, 5

to 3.)

telecast for the

first time. The

Television from 1950 to Today—



Only forty years ago, watching television was a totally different experience from what it is today. Then, the average family watched only black-and-white shows on a seven-inch screen. There were no remote control devices to change channels from the comfort of a sofa. Programs were aired only a few hours every evening.

However, the popularity of television pushed scientists to keep thinking up new ways to improve it. And they did. Color telecasts began in 1953. Larger screens, better reception, more—and more varied—shows, and remotecontrol devices are just some of the ways television has been improved.

Today, television is a communications system that links the far corners of the globe. And who knows what the future will bring.



CABLE TELEVISION began in the early 1950s as CATV, or community antenna television, to serve communities with poor reception. Before this, most television signals were picked up via airwaves through an antenna on top of the set or on the roof. Cable TV linked sets to a central receiving station through a series of cable wire links.



THESE MEN, WORKING at Ampex, developed the VTR, or videotape recorder, in 1956. The VTR was the parent of the VCR, or videocassette recorder. This huge machine could tape only an hour's worth of programs!

MEL SATER (above on right), working for 3M Co., received the 1983 Engineering Emmy for his contributions to videotape. He is considered the person who invented videotape.

In 1956, Robert

Adler, a researcher,

invented the first

workable remote-

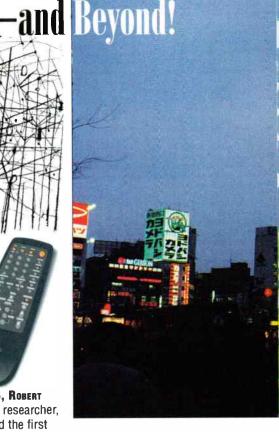
control device for

TV. However, it was

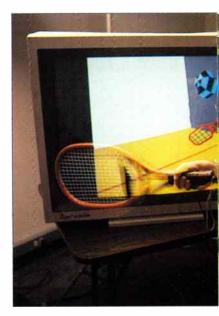
very expensive. In

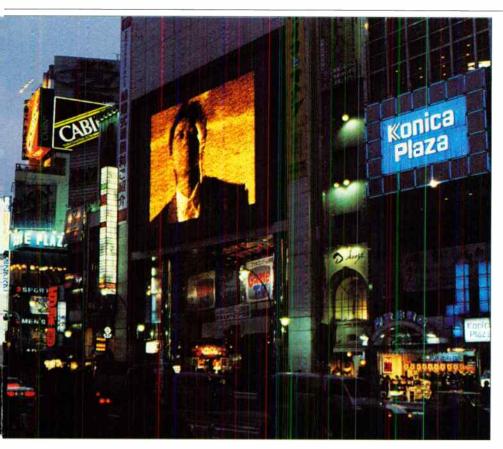
became affordable

the 1970s, it











TV SCREENS HAVE become bigger and bigger. Today, most screens are 19 inches. However, some TV screens can cover an entire wall! There are also TVs small enough to wear on your wrist, so you can watch your favorite program anywhere!

A NETWORK IS A

company created

to broadcast tele-





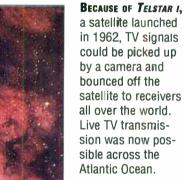






INTERACTIVE TELEVIsion, still in the experimental stage, is a computer-powered system that will let viewers, via their TV, answer multiple choice questions, vote, or





a satellite launched in 1962, TV signals satellite to receivers

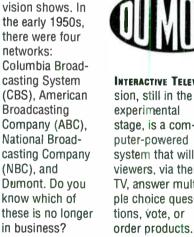


New High Definition Television (HDTV) is on the way. A picture on a TV screen is made up of about 525 individual lines. By increasing the number of lines a TV screen can receive, experts have developed a much clearer picture. In HDTV, the number of lines increases to over 1050. Sets should be available by the mid-1990s.

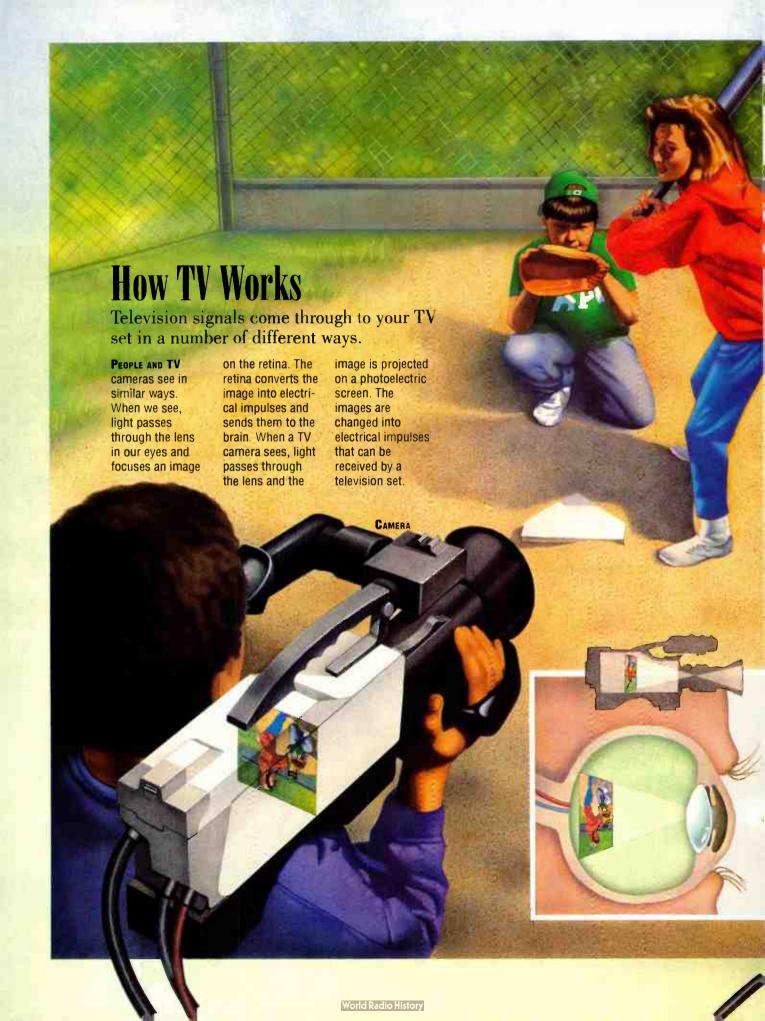
3-DTV IS A CONCEPT that will take television to the outer limits. Using a computer, a headset, and other equipment, viewers will be able to enter an artificial environment, like a rain forest or the planet Neptune. They'll be able to see, touch. smell, and hear another world!

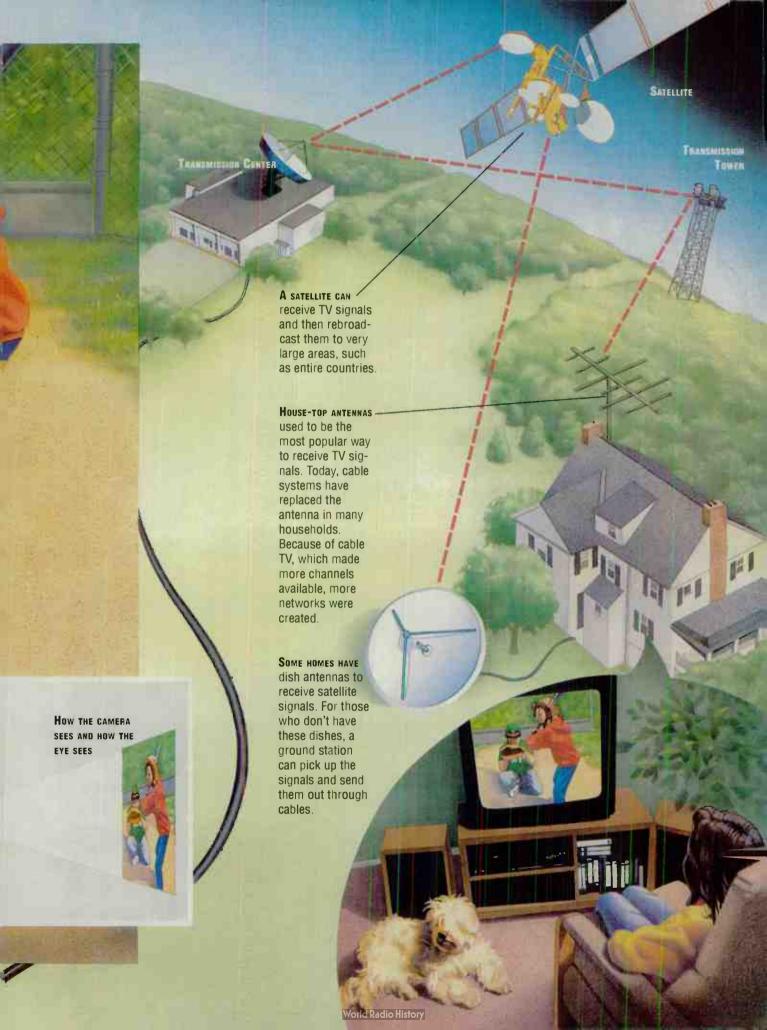


Public-access cable channels allow anyone to buy time on the air and put on a show. If you had the chance, what kind of show would you and your friends put on?







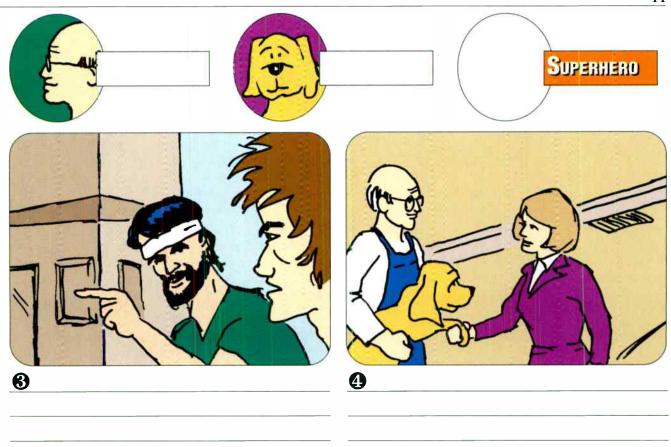




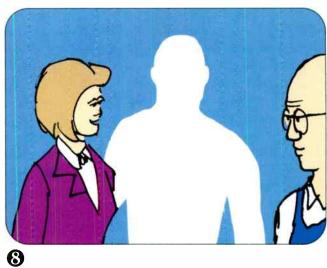
Make Your Own Cartoon

How would you like to be a part of the exciting world of television? You can, by following these simple directions. First, give a name to each of the five characters.

(3)







Then draw your version of a superhero. He or she just might look a lot like you! The frames you see above are similar to a storyboard that people in television use

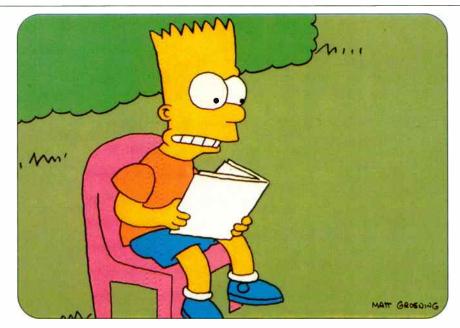
to show what takes place in each scene. Write dialogue below each frame. Do a good job! Your story just might be the basis for a new TV show.

Something for Everyone

No matter what kind of entertainment you like, you can probably find it on television at some time during the day or night. Do you want to laugh? Turn on a situation comedy. Do you want to hear rock-and-roll music? Turn on MTV. Do you want to watch a sporting event? Tune in to basketball, baseball, boxing, wrestling, or even the Olympics. Do you feel nostalgic? Tune in to an old movie or a documentary about the past. Do you want to learn how to bake a soufflé, paint with watercolors, or build a house? Chances are, if you want it, TV has it.

From game shows to dramas, talk shows to soap operas, miniseries to sports, television is a crazy grab bag of fun and learning.





"THE SIMPSONS," one of the big successes of the 1990s, is an animated situation comedy, or sitcom. It made a big star out of its young hero, Bart Simpson. Bart's wise-guy adventures and his favorite phrase---"Cowabunga. Dude!"--make millions laugh each week.

LAUGHS! LAUGHS! Every week, the comic characters in sitcoms get into zany situations meant to make you laugh. "I Love Lucy," the most popular sitcom of the 1950s, can be seen in reruns today. People still laugh at Lucy Ricardo as she tries to wrap chocolates and keep up with an onslaught of sweets as they race off the assembly line, or as she stomps grapes at a vineyard.



"THE COSBY SHOW" broke ground in the 1980s when it featured an uppermiddle-class African-American family. Bill Cosby's humor made the problems of raising a houseful of

children a little

more bearable.

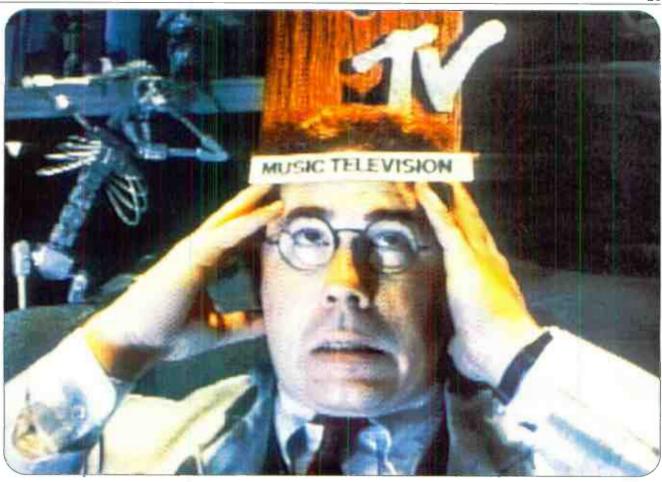


SHUT UP, ALREADY! Talk shows feature a host and quests. who talk and talk. The oldest talk show still on the air is "The Tonight Show," which began in 1954 with Steve Allen as its host. Today's popular host, Johnny Carson, will end a 30year run in 1992. Other popular talk shows are hosted by David Letterman, Arsenio Hall, Oprah Winfrey, and Phil Donahue.



SERIOUS STUFF Early dramatic shows included "Kraft Television Theater" and "Philco TV Playhouse." Later dramatic favorites. which were filmed

rather than put on live, were "L.A. Law," "thirtysomething," and "Hill Street Blues." They became huge hits by dealing with social and personal issues.







DISCOVERY ZONE! What are TV ratings? How are they tabulated?

KID STUFF

Since the days of Howdy Ocody, kids have loved TV. Over the years, preschoolers have watched "Captain Kangaroo" and "Mister Rogers." On Saturday mornings, it's cartoons and adventure shows. Probably the most important children's show of all time is "Sesame Street." Jim Henson created lovable characters such as Big Bird and Cookie Monster to help kids learn the alphabet, count, think, and care about one another.

"I WANT MY MTV!"

This cry was heard in August 1981 when Music Television began. MTV shows music videos and has changed the way people listen to music and buy records.

THRILLS AND CHILLS From "Superman" to "The Flash." TV

has created some terrific action shows. Westerns from "Gunsmoke" to "Little House on the Prairie" have always been a hit. Science-fiction

shows like "Star Trek" and "The Twilight Zone" have fans who have created their own clubs. Viewers love to puzzle over "who did it" in mystery shows such as "Murder, She Wrote."





More Something for Everyone



FUN AND PRIZES!

Game shows test contestants' skill and luck. Longrunning hits such as "Wheel of Fortune," "Jeopardy," "Family Feud," and "\$25,000 Pyramid" have always gathered big audiences. Audiences love to watch people hit the jackpot. Contestants win prizes by answering questions, such as "What's the capital of Belgium?" or "Who wrote Mv Antonia?"

Som! Som! Boo Hoo! Soap operas got their nickname because on the radio they were often sponsored by soap companies. They were called operas because, like musical operas, they are full of drama and tears. Millions of people tune in every day to find out what will happen next.

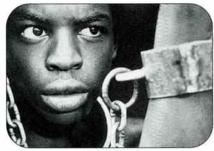
With titles like "All My Children," "General Hospital," and "As the World Turns," they tell stories of passion and romance. Nighttime soaps like "Dallas" and "Dynasty" won big 1980s. Laura and "General Hospital" was a great suc-



WHAT'S NEW?

Among the most famous and wellrespected news reporters are Edward R. Murrow, whose documentary series "See It Now" and "CBS Reports" featured some of the most impactful television news reporting; Walter Cronkite, considered America's #1 anchorman during the 1970s; Dan Rather, also known for his investigative reporting on "60 Minutes"; and Barbara Walters, perhaps best known for her revealing interviews with the famous. "60 Minutes," a Sunday show featuring investigative news reports, is always rated highly.





TELLING A STORY A miniseries tells a dramatic story over several nights. The most popular miniseries of all time was "Roots," first shown in 1977.

Adapted from a book by Alex Halev, "Roots" told the story of the writer's family from its beginnings in an African village, through years of slavery in this country, to ultimate freedom after the Civil War. Other popular miniseries were "The Thorn Birds," "Holocaust," and "Lonesome Dove."



THE GAME'S ON! Some say that watching a game on TV is better than being there in person. You get a

close-up look at the game's every play, you don't have to worry about the weather. and you have

experts to comment on the game as you watch. You can see almost any sport on TV, from baseball to

gymnastics. In the photo above, the U.S. beat the U.S.S.R. in hockey in the 1980 Olympics.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING

In the United States, the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) runs on money donated by its viewers and by large corporations. PBS has aired many fine programs, including "Masterpiece Theatre," "Civilization," "Sesame

Street," "Nova," "Nature," and many special events from theater, dance, and music. There are no commercials on PBS. But several times a vear the local stations appeal to viewers for contributions.



Most Watched **Programs**

(excluding sporting events)

1. "M*A*S*H" (Last episode) CBS 2/28/83 2 "Dallas" ("Who Shot J.R.?") CBS 11/21/80

3. "Roots, Part VIII" ABC 1/30/77 4. "Gone With the Wind" Part I NBC

11/7/76 5. "Gone With the Wind" Part II NBC 11/8/76

6. "Bob Hope Christmas Show" NBC 1/15/70

7. "The Day After" ABC 11/20/83 8. "Roots, Part VI"

ABC 1/28/77 9. "The Fugitive" (Last episode) ABC 8/28/67

10. "Roots, Part V" ABC 1/27/77 (SOURCE: TV GUIDE Commemorative issue 1991)



Buy Me!

Television commercials have one goal. They want you to buy a product. First, they try to get your attention while you're watching TV. Then they try to persuade you to buy the products they talk about. Commercials keep most television networks in



business. Companies pay networks to show their commercials during certain programs. The fee is based on the popularity of the program. The more popular the show, the more money it costs to air the commercial. A 30-second commercial on the highly popular Super Bowl broadcast in 1991 cost advertisers up to \$750,000!

ENTERTAINMENT AND sports stars often appear in commercials. Their endorsement of a product can result in huge sales. Celebrities who have recently sold products include Bo Jackson, M.C. Hammer, Paula Abdul, Whitney Houston, and Bart Simpson.

So... WHERE DID YOU DIG HIM UP FROM?

COUCH POTATOES IS a name given to people who sit endlessly in front of a TV set. They don't budge. They only move to change the channel and eat junk food.

Good or Bad?

In 1961, Newton Minow, a government official, called prime-time TV schedules "a vast wasteland." Even though Minow said that 30 years ago, many feel that it is still true today. Television is credited with being a great teacher. It is also blamed for the poor reading and writing skills of our population. Television gets praise for helping us to better understand the people of the world. But it has also been accused of helping to destroy family life. Television keeps us informed about the political issues of the day. But it can also make us lazy by giving us only "news briefs" that are too short to tell the whole story.

Even people who love TV love to criticize it. As one writer put it, "Television influences everyone, and it pleases no one fully."

Memorable Moments on Live TV



APRIL 1954
Televised congressional hearings investigate Senator Joseph McCarthy's charges that many people in the U.S. are Communists.

November 1963
When President
John Kennedy is
assassinated on
November 22,
1963, the nation is
shattered. The
incidents
surrounding his
death and funeral
are broadcast on
every TV station.
Millions watch
and mourn.





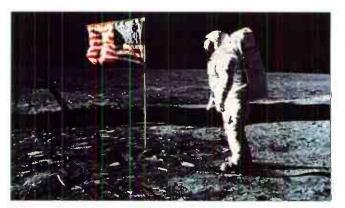




1965-75
Television shows the vivid reality of the Vietnam War, the first time the American public sees the terrible effects of killing and bloodshed on a nightly basis. Many believe that TV coverage helped turn the American people against the war.



SEPTEMBER 1960
The first debate between presidential candidates
John Kennedy and Richard Nixon is held on TV. After he narrowly wins the election, Kennedy says, "We wouldn't have had a prayer without [television]."



July 20, 1969
As 723 million
people watch, Neil
Armstrong and
Edwin "Buzz"
Aldrin become the
first men to walk
on the moon.
They hear Armstrong say, "That's
one small step for
a man, one giant
leap for mankind."





July 29, 1981
Seven nundred
million people in
74 countries
watch the royal
wedding of Prince
Charles of Great
Britain and Lady
Diana.

January 28, 1986
The space shuttle Challenger
explodes shortly after takeoff. Millions of television viewers watch in horror. All seven astronauts are killed, including Christa McAuliffe, a New Hampshire schoolteacher.



January 1991
During the Persian
Gulf War in 1991,
many people
stayed glued to
their TV sets to
watch every
rocket launch and
explosion in the
sky over Baghdad,
live as the action
was happening.

There's Even a Museum!

THE MUSEUM OF Television and Radio opened in New York City in 1976. It is dedicated to preserving the best of broadcasting history. Thousands of videotapes show what a rich and creative art form television can be.



TAKE A CLOSE LOOK

The television industry has added many words and phrases to our language. Each numbered group of letters below is a sentence about a television term. BUT there are no spaces between the words of the sentence. Take a close look and draw a line between letters where spaces should be.

- 1. ACOMPANYCREATEDTOBROADCASTTEL EVISIONSHOWSISANETWORK.
- 2. SATELLITESLETUSVIEWEVENTSONTHEO THERSIDEOFTHEWORLDASTHEYHAPPEN.
- 3. ANOTHERWORDFORBROADCASTISTELE CAST.
- 4. TELEVISIONWOULDNOTHAVEBEENPOSSI BLEWITHOUTTHECATHODE-RAYTUBE.
- 5. BEFORECABLETELEVISIONANTENNASW EREANABSOLUTENECESSITY.
- 6. WITHVIRTUALREALITYARTIFICIALENVI RONMENTSWILLSEEMREAL.
- 7. HIGHDEFINITIONTV WILLINCREASETHE NUMBEROFLINESONTHESCREEN.
- 8. YOUMAYSOMEDAYSHOPFROMYOURHOM EWITHINTERACTIVETELEVISION.
- 9. COUCHPOTATOESLOVEREMOTECONTRO LDEVICES.
- 10. MANYCLASSICTELEVISIONSHOWSCANN OWBERENTEDONVIDEOTAPE.

MORE READINGS ON TELEVISION

Erik Barnouw, *Tube of Plenty*, Oxford University Press, 1990. Harry Castleman and Walter J. Pordrazik, *Watching TV, Four Decades of American Television*, McGraw Hill, 1982. Max Wilk, *The Golden Age of Television*, Moyer Bell Limited, 1988.

Michael Winship, Television, Random House, 1988.



INVENT A
TV SHOW Tired of the same old shows on TV? Invent your own. Below are three categories of television shows. For each one, invent a new show. Give your show

a name, describe what the general





Can you identify these classic television shows from the clues? Some of these oldies but goodies are still on the air. Others are but memories. Unscramble each word in the title. Then unscramble the title.

1. Zany Lucille Ball got into one unbelievable scrape after another in this ancient sitcom.

ELVO UCLY I

2. The torch has been passed from Jack Paar to Steve Allen to Johnny Carson on this long-running late-night show.

HSWO IGNTOHT HTE

3. This daytime soap has been on the air since the late 1950s.

EHT DWLRO SA NUTSR

4. Captain Kangaroo played Clarabelle on this show of the 1950s.

ODYDO TEH WOSH YOWDH

5. A masked rider using silver bullets fought for justice on this early western.

GREARN HET ENLO

6. Clark Kent led a double life in this adventure show.

MESAPURN

7. Live drama was featured on this weekly broadcast.

09 LOPESAHYU

8. Weird things happened when Rod Serling narrated this thriller.

NOZE WIHTLITG TEH

9. If you guess the price, you get the prize on this ever-popular game show.

SI HTE ERPCI TRIHG

10. Big Bird, Ernie, and Bert never age on this children's show. TESRET MASEES

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Auswers

PAGE 13: What are TV ratings? How are they tabulated? TV ratings are recorded by the A. C. Nielsen Company. They select about 3,500 "average" families throughout the United States. In some, a special meter is inserted in each of a family's television sets. The meters keep track of the programs the family watches. Others are given a written log in which they are asked to list their viewing habits. The shows that are watched most often are considered the most popular. Those shows with the highest Nielsen ratings can demand more money from advertisers to air their commercials.

PAGE 18: TAKE A CLOSE LOOK:

1. A company created to broadcast television shows is a network. 2. Satellites let us view events on the other side of the world as they happen. 3. Another word for broadcast is telecast. 4. Television would not have been possible without the cathode-ray tube. 5. Before cable television antennas were an absolute necessity. 6. With virtual reality, artificial environments will seem real. 7. High definition TV will increase the number of lines on the screen. 8. You may someday shop from your home with interactive television. 9. Couch potatoes love remote control devices. 10. Many classic television shows can now be rented on videotape.

Page 19:

TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

1. I Love Lucy 2. The Tonight Show 3. As the World Turns 4. The Howdy Doody Show 5. The Lone Ranger 6. Superman 7. Playhouse 90 8. The Twilight Zone 9. The Price Is Right 10. Sesame Street



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This issue is dedicated to Gerald M. Baumann, a television pioneer.

ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATION

Acme Design Co.: TV for kid, p.2; Remote Control, p.6; Make Your Own Cartoon, pp.10-11; Couch Potato, p.16; Activities Page, pp.18-19. Karen Barnes, Stansbury, Ronsaville, Wood Inc.: Main illustration, pp.8-9.

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