

Guided Reading Activity

Postwar America, 1945–1960

Lesson 2 *The Affluent Society*

Review Questions: Identifying Supporting Details

Directions: Read each main idea. Use your textbook to supply the details that support or explain each main idea.

A. Main Idea: The 1950s was a decade of prosperity, with people moving to the suburbs, buying new products, and working in offices.

1. Detail: Americans produced an abundance of goods and services because of

_____ and _____.

2. Detail: Many Americans moved to the _____ to avoid the _____

and _____ of city neighborhoods.

3. Detail: From 1945 to 1961, the _____ exploded. Some contributing factors of

the _____ were: GI benefits encouraged the _____ and

_____ celebrated large families.

B. Main Idea: American scientists broke new ground in the areas of electronics, manufacturing, and medicine.

1. Detail: In electronics, the development of the _____ made radios smaller and

portable; the development of the _____ launched a revolution, and the development

of the _____ made airline travel available to many.

2. Detail: The development of powerful _____ and _____

made infections much more treatable.

3. Detail: Scientist _____ developed an injectable vaccine to prevent

_____. Later, the _____ became the common method of prevention.

C. Main Idea: As television became popular, other forms of entertainment had to adapt in order to survive.

1. Detail: By 1957, nearly _____ percent of families had at least one television. Popular

formats included _____, _____, and _____.

2. Detail: The _____ saved the radio industry as commuters listened in transit.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

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D. Main Idea: For the first time, America’s youth had disposable income and created an independent youth culture.

1. Detail: A new form of music based on African American rhythms was created, called _____.
The new music created a(n) _____.

2. Detail: Writers and poets who condemned conformity were called _____.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

What brought about economic prosperity in the United States and how did it affect most Americans?
