

Explore More—Talking about Time

Directions: Listen to your teacher talk about words we use to describe time. Circle any words you don't understand. Underline or highlight important ideas in the text. Write notes in the margins to help you understand key points. Then answer the questions in your own words.

Why do we talk about time?

Historians talk a lot about time—when events happened and when people lived, and how events and people relate to one another in time. It is important that we understand the different words that can be used to talk about time.

What is the *past*?

The past is the time before now. In this chapter, you read about American Indians who lived in the past. The Hopi people you read about settled in the Desert Southwest of North America around 1300. That is more than 700 years ago! It is important to learn about the past. That is why we study history. We should know about the people who lived before us so that we can learn from their successes and their mistakes.

What is the *present*?

The present is the time now. The word *present* can be used to describe today—right now—or it can be used to describe the current time period. For example, we could say that the early 2000s is the present time.

In this chapter, you read about the Hopi people who lived in the past. Descendants of the Hopi people you read about are living in the present time. The Hopi still live in northeastern Arizona. Many of their ancient villages and towns are standing today.

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What is the *future*?

The future is the time after now. The future has not happened yet. What will happen in the future? We don't know, but many people make educated guesses about what will happen. For example, we know that medicine is getting more and more advanced, so many people believe that medicine will allow us to do things in the future that we cannot do today. Maybe one day in the future we will be able to cure diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

How long is a *decade*?

A decade is a period of 10 years. For example, 1990-1999 is one decade; 2000-2009 is another decade. In what decade were you born?

How long is a *century*?

A century is a period of 100 years. For example, 1800-1899 is one century; 1900-1999 is another century. So when was the 18th century? This is where it gets a little tricky. The years 1700-1799 are considered the 18th century, even though these years are part of the 1700s. The years 1800-1899 are considered the 19th century, even though these years are part of the 1800s. So what century are we living in now? That's right, we're living in the 21st century.

What is a *generation*?

A generation refers to all the people born around the same time. Sisters and brothers are usually part of the same generation. Your grandparents are part of an older generation. As you read about people and events in American history, you will learn about stories that have been passed down from generation to generation. ❖

YOUR TURN!

1. Define each term in your own words.

past	
present	
future	
decade	
century	
generation	

2. Explain something that you did in the past.

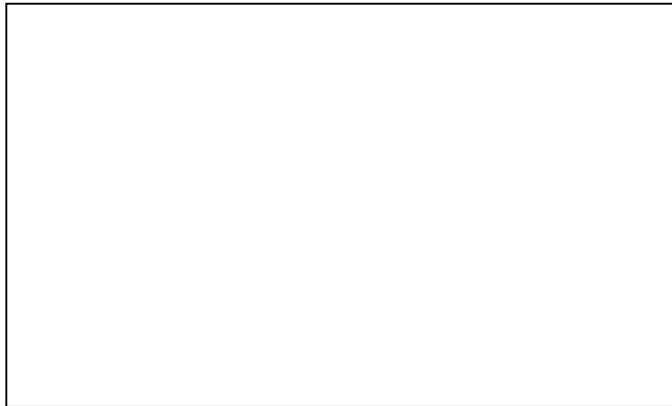
3. Explain something that you are doing in the present.

4. Explain something that you want to do in the future.

5. During which decade were you born?

6. During which century did the Hopi first settle in the Desert Southwest of North America?

7. Draw a picture of someone who is in your generation.



8. Draw a picture of someone who is in an older generation.

