

## The Origins & Early Influence of Radio

- I. Radio started with the discovery of what? \_\_\_\_\_
- II. Radio owed its development to which other inventions? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- III. How was radio used early on? What purposes did it serve? (LIST)
  
- IV. **Radio During WWI:** all radio development was controlled by the U.S. Navy
- V. **Radio after the War:** There was an explosion of radio broadcasting after the war.
  - a. **Golden Age of Radio** (late 1920s-early 1950s) DEFINE:
  
  - VI. **Radio in the 1930s**
    - a. SUPPORT THIS STATEMENT WITH SEVERAL SPECIFIC EXAMPLES: **“By the end of the 1930s, radio broadcasting had become the single most potent force in mass communication.”**
  
    - b. What impact did the Depression have on radio? (PROVIDE 2 EXAMPLES)

## VII. Radio as News

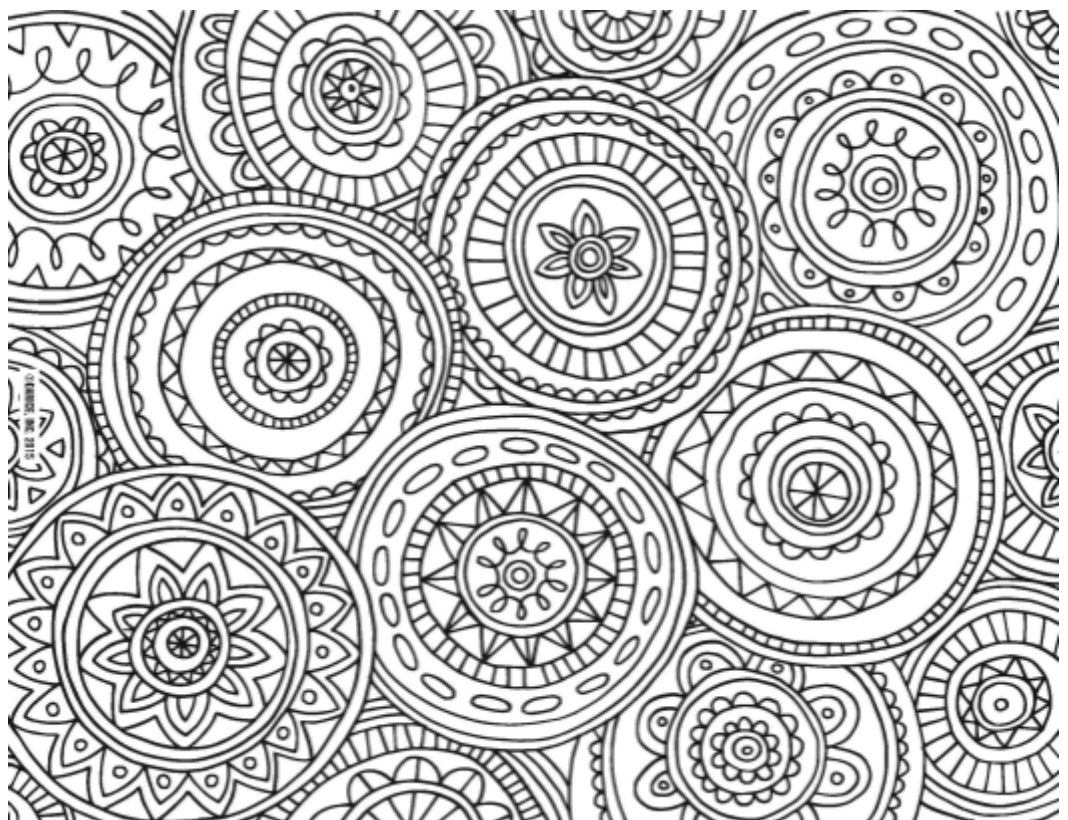
- a. Newscasters brought the latest news about important events directly and quickly into American homes.
- b. Radio as a political tool: Politicians used the radio to spread ideas and information to the masses - FDR's **Fireside Chats**
- c. International news - **What impact did the growing war in Europe have on the growth and importance of radio news in the US in the 1930s?**

## VIII. Radio as Entertainment

- a. '20s radio offered listeners the same thing they could hear in theaters—opera, orchestral performances, vaudeville routines, musical revues, etc., and could read in newspapers—news, weather, stock market closing prices, farm updates, home management advice, etc., adding such features as bedtime stories for children.
- b. **By the 1930s, entertainment shows included soap operas, serial dramas, quiz shows, musical variety shows, live sporting events, dramas, thrillers, adventure series and comedy shows.**
  - i. EXAMPLE #1: Abbott & Costello
  - ii. EXAMPLE #2: Amos & Andy

- IX. By 1940, more than \_\_\_\_\_% of American families owned radios (up from \_\_\_\_\_% in 1935) and most Americans relied on radio for important news. This transformation of news radio as the most significant source of instant info for Americans was complete by the end of WWII.

*If you need to do something  
productive with your hands  
while you listen...*



## War of the Worlds Listening Guide

**Directions:** Read and follow along as you listen to *War of the Worlds* answering some questions along the way.

**The Program:** (Oct. 30, 1938)

- The show begins with the opening title and the announcer telling us that tonight's show will be an adaptation of H.G. Wells' book, *War of the Worlds*. Orson Welles gives an introduction. In his introduction, he tells listeners that the performance is an adaptation of the book and that the adaptation is set in 1939 (the "future").
- As the introduction fades out, a weather broadcast fades in, along with a "live" broadcast of some orchestra music. 4 minutes in, the music program begins being "interrupted" by "breaking news." The account of the events happening in and around Grover's Mill, NJ continue for another ten minutes or so. As a listener, **what is some of the "breaking news" you are hearing at this time?**

- We're going to fast forward through the alien attacks. Know that between the time of learning that the 40 people are dead in Grover's Mill and finding out that NYC is under attack:
  - Professor Pierson (played by Welles himself) speculates that maybe these are aliens.
  - The New Jersey state militia declares martial law and attacks the cylinder, which causes a tripod alien fighting robot to emerge from the pit.
  - Reports come in of people clogging roadways as they try to escape.
  - More alien robots come out of the cylinder, destroying power stations, bridges, and railroads.
  - The Martians mount walking war machines and fire "heat-ray" weapons at the humans gathered around the crash site. They annihilate a force of 7,000 National Guardsmen, and after being attacked by artillery and bombers, the Martians release a poisonous gas into the air.
  - There are reports of other cylinders landing in Chicago and St. Louis.
  - The "Secretary of the Interior" (who sounded a lot like President FDR) advises the country.
  - A report from a battle site ends with soldiers coughing and gasping for air as a result of alien black smoke/poison gas.
  - A report is heard from a fighter plane whose engines are destroyed by the alien "laser," resulting in it crash landing right into alien territory.



- About a half-hour into the program, a news reporter at the top of the CBS building describes the alien takeover of NYC.
- After some silence, we hear a radio operator calling "2X2L calling CQ. Isn't there anyone on the air? Isn't there...anyone?"

