

Name _____

Exploring Technology

The many definitions of technology:

A) Artifact or hardware – an item created to solve practical problems. Includes tools, computers, MRI machine, and medicines.

Can you think of 3 other artifacts of technology that you use?

B) Method or technique – the application of knowledge or science to the creation of a procedure or practice, such as a painting technique, the use of a microscope, combining DNA to form a new hybrid plant, or laser surgery.

What are some technological methods or techniques that have been incorporated into the medical field?

C) System of production – the application of knowledge or science to a manufacturing procedure or process, such as the automobile assembly line or a new system for using synthetic fibers to make a bulletproof vest.

How have technological innovations changed how cars are produced?

D) Social-technical system – an interrelated group of people, artifacts, and devices that works together as a whole to meet a need; for example a videoconference, or an airplane, which incorporates a variety of devices, human resources, and artifacts.

How have you recently participated in a social-technical system?

Think about and apply your knowledge:

On a blank sheet of paper, design a student desk that integrates technology in the ways enumerated above. When you have finished, answer the following questions about your new student desk:

1. What technological artifacts did you include?
2. What needs did these artifacts satisfy?
3. How would your technological system interface with others?