

## Student Worksheet

### DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

### STORY

**Pay Phones, Phone Booths Quickly Becoming a Thing of Past**, 12/11/07

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/july-dec07/phone\\_12-11.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/july-dec07/phone_12-11.html)

### READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

**1. How many wireless customers are there in the United States? What impact have they had on public phone usage?**

**2. What did AT&T announce last week?**

**3. How many pay phones will be impacted by this announcement? What trends are there in the number of pay phones in the United States?**

**4. When was the first pay phone installed? How is it different than a modern pay phone? Where were more modern pay phones first installed?**

**5. What impact will the decline in the public pay phone have on society according to some?**

**6. What is one option for a community that is harmed by the loss of a pay phone or phone booth?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. Do a survey of your community. How many public pay phones or phone booths can you find? Where are they located? Why do you think they are located in these areas?**

**2. Imagine that you don't have access to a cell phone or telephone for one day. How might your life be different? What challenges would you face? How would you overcome these obstacles? Can you imagine what your life would be like if this was an everyday occurrence?**

**3. According to the article the popularity of cell phones has impacted the number of pay phones that exist. In what other ways has the cell phone impacted your culture and society? Which of these changes are good? Which are bad? Explain your answer with clear examples. What might you change about this situation if you could? How would you do so?**

**4. Do you think cell phones have affected businesses, politics, education? How?**

**Extension Activity**

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.