

A Closer Look: The State of the Union Worksheet

Name: _____

1) What was the State of the Union address originally called and in what year was it first delivered?

2) Early State of the Union addresses included reports on budget requests and the health of the nation's economy. Name the two acts that required these reports to be delivered separately from the State of the Union address.

3) Only certain officials are allowed on the House floor during the State of the Union address. Can you name them?

4) Which President began the practice of sending separate, written annual messages to the House and the Senate?

5) The State of the Union is currently delivered on the House floor. Where was the State of the Union previously delivered?

6) Name two Presidents who sent a written annual message or State of the Union address to Congress instead of delivering it in person.

1) _____

2) _____

7) Imagine you are the President of the United States and that you are about to deliver your first State of the Union address. List three topics you would focus on and explain why you chose them.

8) In modern practice, the opposition party responds to the State of the Union address. In what year did the opposition party first respond? Who gave the response, and which state(s) was represented?

9) Innovations in technology have allowed Presidents to deliver their annual addresses directly to the American people. Match the following types of technology with the Presidents who first used them by writing a letter from the right-hand column next to the appropriate President's name.

___ George W. Bush

a) Television

___ Harry Truman

b) Internet (webcast)

___ Calvin Coolidge

c) Radio

10) Which type of technology do you think had the biggest impact on the State of the Union address? Why?
