

# LISTENING DEVICE INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

# *Transistor Radio*

## *Activity*

### WHAT DO YOU SEE? (2 minutes)

- Read out loud the history of the device.
- How would you describe this device to someone who can't see?
- What questions do you have about this device?

### WHAT DO YOU HEAR? (4 minutes)

- Listen to music on the device by following the instructions.
- How is this device similar to how you listen to music today?
- How is this device different from how you listen to music today?

### WHAT DO YOU THINK? (2 minutes)

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the device's design?
- Why is this device not popular today?
- How would you change this device to make it better?

## *History*

- The discovery of radio waves in 1887 made wireless communication possible.
- Radio broadcasts for news, sports, and entertainment became popular in the 1920s. The radio provided an inexpensive and interesting way to pass the time.
- By 1929, one in every three American homes had a radio.
- Throughout World War II, the radio allowed listeners to receive regular news updates about the war.
- In the 1950s, cars were sold with radios preinstalled. That meant drivers could hear broadcasts on their way to and from work.
- In 1947, the invention of the transistor (an electronic part that boosts and powers the sound in a speaker) meant radios could be made smaller, and lighter, and could run on a single battery.
- Billions of transistor radios were made in the 1960s and 1970s.

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## *Instructions*

1. Remove the radio from the case.
2. Locate the RADIO FREQUENCY DIAL next to the display with numbers.
3. Locate the other dial, which turns the radio on/off. Move the dial upwards to turn the radio ON and adjust the VOLUME.
4. Turn the RADIO FREQUENCY DIAL slowly until you are able to locate and hear a radio station.
5. When finished, slide the VOLUME dial downwards and turn OFF.
6. Place the radio back in the case so the speaker is facing the holes in the case. Place it upright using the u-shaped stand on the case.

\*Troubleshooting: If the radio does not turn on, it most likely needs a new battery. Open up the back of the radio, remove the 9V battery, and replace it with a new 9V battery (teachers only).

