

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

What do you know about refrigerators?

What do you do if you want a nice cool drink or a snack? Most people go look into their refrigerators to find something to drink or eat. Did you know that in the past refrigerators did not exist? In the past people used to keep things cool by placing them in snow, ice, cool springs, caves, or even cellars. If meat had to be stored in the summer it was salted or smoked.

Over time humans learned to gather ice in the winter or create ice by filling pots with water and leaving it outside. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century ice boxes were used. These were wooden boxes lined with tin or zinc and insulated with cork, sawdust, or seaweed to keep the ice from melting so quickly.

In 1911, the first refrigerators appeared, but they did not look like modern day refrigerators. In fact, they had a wooden cabinet and only 9 cubic feet of space. By the mid 1920s a more modern version of the refrigerator appeared in steel and porcelain. Today refrigerators are common in US homes. They are used to keep food fresh and safe to eat prior to being cooked.

1. Underline the section of the passage that shows how items were kept to keep cool before refrigerators and ice boxes.
2. Circle how ice boxes were insulated.
3. In what year did the first refrigerators appear? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What are modern day refrigerators made of as far as materials?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What are refrigerators used for in modern times?  
\_\_\_\_\_

