Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Lesson 8: Punctuating Parenthetical Elements

When you want to include a ***parenthetical element***, or a piece of extra information that is interesting but not absolutely necessary, you use punctuation marks to set it off from the rest of a sentence. You can use ***commas***, ***parentheses***, or ***dashes***.

Type of Punctuation	When to use	Example
Commas	to set off information that is not essential to understanding the rest of the sentence	Rachel Carson, **born on a small farm in Pennsylvania**, devoted life to protecting the environment. She was always interested in nature, **even as a young girl**.
Parentheses	to set off nonessential information or to remind readers of something they may already know	Rachel Carson (**1907-1964**) did important research on the effects of chemicals on our water supply.
Dashes	to add emphasis, set off a new thought, or show a sudden change in thinking	Carson – **always passionate about nature** – was a powerful and persuasive writer. She began her writing by exploring life in the sea – **a world unknown to most readers**.

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1. Dr. Jonas Salk 1914-1995 discovered a cure for polio.

2. Polio a disease that struck fear in parents was a terrible illness that could cripple children.

3. Jonas Salk's parents immigrants with little formal education themselves were determined that their children would succeed.

4. At medical school, Salk began researching influenza the virus that causes the flu.

5. Salk's discovery of a polio vaccine for which he refused to accept money won him the admiration of all Americans.

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