Alabama at Work

New ideas, growing industries, and a changing city

SS24.5.1 "Explain how industry and agriculture expanded during the early twentieth century. 1a Summarize how important entrepreneurs and inventors shaped American society, and identify Alabamians who contributed to these innovations..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two changes in farming or manufacturing, circle two Alabama resources, and number two details that explain why Birmingham grew.

New Work in Alabama

1. In the early 1900s, new ideas changed how Americans worked and traveled. Entrepreneur Henry Ford used moving assembly lines to build cars faster and sell them for less. More families could buy cars, and factories needed workers and steel. Alabama inventor Mary Anderson patented a hand-operated windshield wiper in 1903. Her invention helped drivers clear rain or snow from a windshield, making travel safer.

2. Alabama's factories and mills grew as people found new ways to use the state's resources. Near Birmingham, iron ore, coal, and limestone lay close together. Workers used them to make iron and steel, and railroads carried the products away. Textile mills turned cotton from farms into cloth. In forested areas, timber crews cut trees, and sawmills made lumber for buildings. Each business created jobs beyond farming.

3. Farming changed, too. At Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, scientist George Washington Carver taught farmers to grow peanuts and other crops instead of planting only cotton. This gave farmers more crops to sell and helped protect worn soil. Meanwhile, jobs in Birmingham's mills, factories, and rail yards drew people from rural places. As workers arrived, stores and homes grew around the workplaces, and Birmingham grew into a busy city.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Ford's way of making cars affect families and factory work?

2. How did Mary Anderson and George Washington Carver help people in different ways?

3. Explain how Alabama's resources supported two different industries.

4. Why did Birmingham grow as industry expanded?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence postcard from someone who moved to Birmingham in the early 1900s. Name a job in an Alabama industry, explain why the city drew you, and describe how one new idea from the passage might change your family's daily life.

ANSWER KEY

Alabama at Work

GRADE 5 · SS24.5.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two changes in farming or manufacturing, circle two Alabama resources, and number two details that explain why Birmingham grew. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Ford's way of making cars affect families and factory work?	**Assembly lines made cars faster and cheaper, so more families could buy them. Factories also needed workers and steel.**
2	How did Mary Anderson and George Washington Carver help people in different ways?	**Anderson's windshield wiper helped drivers see in rain or snow. Carver taught farmers to grow other crops, giving them more to sell and helping protect worn soil.**
3	Explain how Alabama's resources supported two different industries.	**Iron ore, coal, and limestone supported iron and steel production near Birmingham. Cotton from farms supplied textile mills.**
4	Why did Birmingham grow as industry expanded?	**Jobs in mills, factories, and rail yards drew people to Birmingham. Stores and homes grew as workers arrived.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I moved to Birmingham to work in a steel mill. The city's iron ore, coal, and limestone helped create jobs here. Ford's faster way of building cars might make a car affordable for my family someday.

Accept other passage-supported examples, including timber or textile jobs and ideas from Anderson or Carver. The postcard should connect a Birmingham job to the move and explain a possible effect of one new idea.