Made in Alabama

How Alabama helped supply the war effort

SS24.5.10a "Explain Alabama's contributions to military production during World War II."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three Alabama production locations, circle a product made at each, and put a star beside the words that explain how each product helped the armed forces.

Alabama at Work During World War II

1. During World War II, a shipyard in Mobile rang with hammers and welding tools. Workers at the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company built cargo ships called Liberty ships. These ships carried food, vehicles, and other supplies across the ocean to support American forces. The shipyard did not fight battles, but the ships it made helped keep soldiers supplied far from home.

2. In Birmingham, steel mills turned iron and other materials into steel for wartime needs. Strong steel was needed to make ships, vehicles, and equipment. Farther east, the Alabama Ordnance Works near Childersburg made explosives, including TNT. Explosives were used in ammunition for the armed forces. These jobs show that military production included both materials used to build equipment and materials used to make weapons.

3. A ship could be ready to sail only after many people had cut metal, joined parts, and checked their work. Wartime jobs drew thousands of workers to Alabama factories and shipyards, including women who entered new kinds of work. These workers made different products for different needs. Alabama's contribution was not a single weapon: its steel, ships, and explosives helped the United States equip and supply its forces.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Liberty ships built in Mobile help American forces during the war?

2. Why was the steel made in Birmingham important to military production?

3. How did the Alabama Ordnance Works near Childersburg meet a different wartime need from Birmingham's steel mills?

4. Why were workers important to Alabama's military production? Use a detail from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences for a museum label titled “Made in Alabama.” In your first two sentences, explain how two different Alabama workplaces met different wartime needs. In your last sentence, explain why both contributions mattered together.

ANSWER KEY

Made in Alabama

GRADE 5 · SS24.5.10a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the three Alabama production locations, circle a product made at each, and put a star beside the words that explain how each product helped the armed forces. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Liberty ships built in Mobile help American forces during the war?	**They carried food, vehicles, and other supplies across the ocean to American forces.**
2	Why was the steel made in Birmingham important to military production?	**Steel was needed to make ships, vehicles, and equipment.**
3	How did the Alabama Ordnance Works near Childersburg meet a different wartime need from Birmingham's steel mills?	**The Alabama Ordnance Works made explosives for ammunition, while Birmingham's mills made steel for ships, vehicles, and equipment.**
4	Why were workers important to Alabama's military production? Use a detail from the passage.	**Workers made wartime products. For example, shipyard workers cut metal, joined parts, and checked their work to build ships.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mobile shipyards built cargo ships that carried supplies to American forces overseas. The Alabama Ordnance Works near Childersburg made explosives used in ammunition. Together, these products helped forces get both the supplies and the ammunition they needed.

Accept any two workplaces in the passage if the response accurately explains what each produced, how the products met different wartime needs, and why both mattered together.