Ideas That Changed Lives

Inventors, entrepreneurs, and the changes they brought

SS24.5.1a "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 each person's contribution, then circle one change it made in people's lives. Number each contribution and its matching change with the same number.

New Ideas in America and Alabama

1. At the start of the 1900s, many Americans wanted to travel farther and faster. Business owner Henry Ford sold the Model T, a car introduced in 1908. In 1913, his company began using a moving assembly line to build cars faster. Lower prices helped more families buy cars, changing where people could work and shop.

2. Inventors in Alabama helped make travel safer, too. Andrew Jackson Beard, born in Alabama, patented an automatic railroad car coupler in 1897. It joined cars without workers standing between them, where they could be crushed. Mary Anderson, who lived in Birmingham, patented a hand-operated windshield cleaner in 1903. A driver could clear rain or snow without stopping to wipe the glass, making it easier to see.

3. New ideas also changed farms. At Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, scientist George Washington Carver taught farmers to grow crops such as peanuts and sweet potatoes instead of planting cotton every year. Peanuts helped restore worn-out soil. He also developed new uses for these crops, giving farmers more ways to sell what they grew. His work helped farming families care for their land and earn money.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Ford's way of building cars change where some Americans could work and shop?

2. How did Beard's invention change the work of joining railroad cars?

3. How did Anderson's invention improve travel in a way Ford's assembly line did not?

4. How did Carver's work help both the land and farmers' chances to earn money?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town is opening a market that needs food deliveries and safe travel. In four sentences, explain how Ford's contribution and one Alabamian's contribution could help the town, then say which you would want the town to benefit from first and why.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · SS24.5.1a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each person's contribution, then circle one change it made in people's lives. Number each contribution and its matching change with the same number. 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 building cars change where some Americans could work and shop?	**His moving assembly line helped lower car prices, so more families could buy cars and travel to work or shop.**
2	How did Beard's invention change the work of joining railroad cars?	**His automatic coupler joined cars without workers standing between them, reducing the danger of being crushed.**
3	How did Anderson's invention improve travel in a way Ford's assembly line did not?	**Anderson's cleaner helped drivers see through rain or snow. Ford's assembly line helped lower the price of cars.**
4	How did Carver's work help both the land and farmers' chances to earn money?	**He taught farmers to grow peanuts, which helped restore soil, and developed new uses for crops that farmers could sell.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Ford's lower-cost cars could help more families travel to our town's new market. Mary Anderson's windshield cleaner could help drivers see during rainy trips there. I would want the town to benefit from the windshield cleaner first because storms can make travel dangerous. Safer trips would help shoppers and food deliveries reach the market.

Accept answers that accurately connect each contribution to its effect. For the open task, students may choose Beard, Anderson, or Carver as the Alabamian if they explain how that person's work applies to the town.