Alabama Makes More

How new industries changed work and trade around 1900

SS24.5.1b "Describe the emergence of new forms of economic activity in Alabama at the turn of the twentieth century, including the iron, steel, textile, and timber industries."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that show what iron, steel, textile, and timber businesses made. Circle the places that explain how railroads moved materials or goods for these businesses.

More Than Crops on the Train

1 Around 1900, a train crossing Alabama might carry more than crops. It could haul iron ore to Birmingham, where nearby coal and limestone helped factories make iron. Workers heated iron ore in tall furnaces to separate the metal from rock. Other workers turned iron into steel, a stronger material used for rails and buildings. Railroads helped these growing industries ship heavy materials and finished goods.

2 In other Alabama towns, textile mills changed what happened to cotton after harvest. Instead of sending all cotton away as a crop, mills bought cotton and spun its fibers into thread. Machines then wove thread into cloth. Families moved from farms or other places to work for wages in mills. Rail lines carried cotton to the mills and cloth to buyers, linking farms with a new kind of factory work.

3 Forests supplied another growing business. In south Alabama, crews cut pine trees and hauled logs to sawmills. Sawmills sliced the logs into boards that builders could use for houses and other structures. Trains moved lumber to markets beyond the forest. Around the turn of the twentieth century, Alabama still had farms, but iron and steel plants, textile mills, and timber businesses offered more ways to earn a living and sell goods.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did nearby materials and railroads help iron and steel production grow near Birmingham?

2. How did textile mills create a new kind of business from cotton?

3. How did Alabama's forests support a timber business that sold goods beyond the forest?

4. How did the growth of these industries change ways people could earn a living in Alabama?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence label for a museum display called “A Trainload from Alabama, 1900.” Describe goods made by at least three of the four industries, and explain how trains helped businesses grow beyond farming.

ANSWER KEY

Alabama Makes More

GRADE 5 · SS24.5.1b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that show what iron, steel, textile, and timber businesses made. Circle the places that explain how railroads moved materials or goods for these businesses. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did nearby materials and railroads help iron and steel production grow near Birmingham?	**Nearby iron ore, coal, and limestone helped factories make iron and steel. Railroads moved heavy materials and finished goods.**
2	How did textile mills create a new kind of business from cotton?	**Mills bought cotton, spun it into thread, and wove the thread into cloth.**
3	How did Alabama's forests support a timber business that sold goods beyond the forest?	**Crews cut pine trees, sawmills made boards from the logs, and trains moved the lumber to markets.**
4	How did the growth of these industries change ways people could earn a living in Alabama?	**People could earn wages in places such as textile mills instead of relying only on farm work.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Birmingham, factories made iron from ore and turned iron into steel for rails. Textile mills changed cotton into thread and cloth. Sawmills cut pine logs into boards for building. Trains carried materials to factories and goods to buyers, helping businesses grow beyond farming.

Accept other accurate descriptions grounded in the passage. The museum label should have exactly four sentences, name goods from at least three industries, and explain how trains helped businesses grow.