Paths to Change

Education, work, and disability rights in the Progressive Era

SS24.5.3 "Describe Progressive Era social reforms in both the United States and Alabama. 3a Explain how legislation, individuals, and groups extended educational opportunities in Alabama..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one action taken by a person or group and circle a change that action sought or helped bring about. Look for how people worked to expand opportunities or protect others.

Changing Life in Alabama and Beyond

1. In the Progressive Era, many Americans tried to solve problems caused by rapid growth. In Alabama, educator Julia Tutwiler pushed for more schooling for girls. Her work helped open the Alabama Girls' Industrial School, where young women could learn job skills. Women's clubs supported school libraries. A 1915 Alabama law required children to attend school, giving more children a chance to learn.

2. A child in a mill could work long hours near dangerous machines. Across the United States, labor unions brought workers together to demand shorter hours and safer workplaces. Reformers reported unsafe conditions and urged lawmakers to act. In Alabama, a 1915 child labor law barred children younger than 14 from many factory jobs. Such laws could protect children and leave them more time for school.

3. Helen Keller was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama. An illness left her unable to see or hear when she was very young. With teacher Anne Sullivan's help, Keller learned to communicate and later graduated from college. Keller spoke and wrote about the rights of people with disabilities. She worked with the American Foundation for the Blind to seek more books in Braille, education, and jobs for blind people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Julia Tutwiler and women's clubs each help extend educational opportunities in Alabama?

2. How did labor unions and reformers try to change working conditions across the United States?

3. Why was Alabama's 1915 child labor law one way to address the problem described at the start of paragraph two?

4. How did Keller's early life connect to the opportunities she later sought for others?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence message for an Alabama museum. Explain how an education reform, a workplace protection, and Helen Keller's advocacy could help a child or family, then connect two of those changes.

ANSWER KEY

Paths to Change

GRADE 5 · SS24.5.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one action taken by a person or group and circle a change that action sought or helped bring about. Look for how people worked to expand opportunities or protect others. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Julia Tutwiler and women's clubs each help extend educational opportunities in Alabama?	**Tutwiler helped open a school where young women could learn job skills. Women's clubs supported school libraries.**
2	How did labor unions and reformers try to change working conditions across the United States?	**Unions brought workers together to demand shorter hours and safer workplaces. Reformers reported unsafe conditions and urged lawmakers to act.**
3	Why was Alabama's 1915 child labor law one way to address the problem described at the start of paragraph two?	**The law barred children younger than 14 from many factory jobs, helping keep them away from long hours and dangerous machines.**
4	How did Keller's early life connect to the opportunities she later sought for others?	**After losing her sight and hearing, Keller learned to communicate and graduated from college. She later sought more books in Braille, education, and jobs for blind people.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Alabama's school attendance law could give a child more time to learn. The child labor law could keep that child out of dangerous factory work. Helen Keller's advocacy could help a blind family member get books in Braille and an education. Together, the school and child labor laws could make it easier for a child to spend the day learning instead of working.

Accept other passage-supported education reforms and clear connections between reforms. Students should explain how each change helped people, not simply name it.