Routes Into the Interior

How new technology supported expansion before 1848

SS24.US1.5c "Describe how scientific and technological advances helped facilitate expansion prior to 1848."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline each advance, circle what it helped people do, and number each limit or harmful consequence. Use your marks to explain how technology supported expansion.

Moving People, Goods, and News

1 In 1825, the Erie Canal opened a water route between the Hudson River and Lake Erie. Its locks lifted boats across changes in elevation, connecting Atlantic ports with the Great Lakes. A farmer near Lake Erie could send grain toward eastern cities at a lower cost than hauling it overland by wagon. Manufactured goods could travel west along the same route. This easier exchange encouraged migration and investment in towns around the lakes. Yet those towns grew on lands that Native nations had occupied and defended. Technology did not create empty land; federal policies and settlers' actions also drove dispossession.

2 On the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, steamboats powered by steam engines could travel upstream more reliably than boats dependent on current or wind. Their schedules were not perfectly reliable: low water, snags, and boiler explosions posed dangers. Still, they carried people, crops, and supplies between river ports, helping inland settlements trade with distant markets. During the 1830s and 1840s, railroads also began linking eastern cities to inland towns. Rails let freight travel over stretches where rivers offered no direct path. Before 1848, however, no railroad crossed the continent. These networks supported expansion, but neither made travel safe or settlement inevitable.

3 In 1844, Samuel Morse sent a telegraph message between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. Electrical signals carried coded messages over wires, so news could travel much faster than a rider or a boat on that route. During the next few years, lines spread between some eastern and Midwestern cities. Merchants could learn about prices at distant markets sooner and plan shipments to growing inland settlements. Telegraph wires did not yet span the continent before 1848; distant western communities still waited for news carried by people. Faster information strengthened connections among expanding settlements, but it did not replace the boats, rails, and roads that moved goods.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Erie Canal's locks help trade and migration around the Great Lakes?

2. How did steamboats help inland settlements connect with distant markets, despite the dangers of river travel?

3. How did early railroads support expansion in places without a direct river route? What could they not do before 1848?

4. How did the telegraph help merchants in expanding settlements, and why was its reach limited before 1848?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are advising a merchant opening a grain business near Lake Erie in 1847. Write a 5- to 6-sentence note explaining how two different advances could help the business reach distant markets, one limit of a technology, and one consequence of expansion for Native nations.

ANSWER KEY

Routes Into the Interior

GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.5c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline each advance, circle what it helped people do, and number each limit or harmful consequence. Use your marks to explain how technology supported expansion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Erie Canal's locks help trade and migration around the Great Lakes?	**The locks helped boats cross changes in elevation, creating a water route between the Great Lakes and Atlantic ports. Cheaper transport encouraged trade and migration.**
2	How did steamboats help inland settlements connect with distant markets, despite the dangers of river travel?	**They traveled upstream more reliably than boats dependent on current or wind and carried people and goods between river ports, though low water, snags, and boiler explosions remained dangers.**
3	How did early railroads support expansion in places without a direct river route? What could they not do before 1848?	**They carried freight between eastern cities and inland towns where rivers offered no direct path. They could not carry it across the continent.**
4	How did the telegraph help merchants in expanding settlements, and why was its reach limited before 1848?	**Faster news about distant prices helped merchants plan shipments, but telegraph lines did not yet span the continent.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1847, I would use the Erie Canal to send grain from your Lake Erie town toward eastern buyers. Its locks make a water route possible across changes in elevation, reducing the need to haul grain by wagon. I would also seek a railroad connection to carry grain from farms that do not sit beside a waterway. Railroads have not crossed the continent, so do not plan to ship your grain by rail all the way west. As your business grows, remember that expanding settlements have displaced Native nations from lands they occupied and defended.

Accept other pairs of advances if the note explains how each could help this business, identifies an accurate limit, and connects expansion to Native dispossession. Do not accept a claim that a railroad or telegraph line crossed the continent by 1847.