

Machines Move Business

Trace how new technology increased production and trade.

SS.5.E.1.3 "Trace the development of technology and the impact of major inventions on business productivity during the early development of the United States."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each technology or invention. Circle the words that explain how it helped a business produce, move, or sell more goods.

From Handwork to Faster Trade

- ① In the early United States, many goods were made by hand in homes or small shops. A spinner used a spinning wheel to twist fiber into thread, and a weaver used a hand loom to make cloth. This work took time. Because each worker made only a small amount, cloth was costly and businesses could sell fewer finished goods.
- ② In 1793, Samuel Slater's water-powered textile mill began operating in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. The mill used machines to spin cotton thread. Water from a nearby river turned a wheel that powered the machines. One mill worker could help produce more thread than a person working with a spinning wheel at home. The mill made thread faster and in larger amounts.
- ③ Other inventions changed travel and trade. Steamboats carried people and cargo upstream and downstream more reliably than boats that depended only on wind. Railroads later moved raw materials to factories and carried finished products to distant customers. Faster transportation connected farms, mines, factories, and stores. When supplies and goods arrived more quickly, businesses could produce, ship, and sell more goods in less time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What changed when Samuel Slater's mill began operating in 1793?

2 How did river water help the textile mill increase production?

3 How did railroads connect factories to customers?

4 Why did steamboats and railroads help businesses sell more goods?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a business not named in the passage, such as a shoe shop or a grain farm. Write three sentences explaining how one technology from the passage could help that business work faster or sell more goods.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each technology or invention. Circle the words that explain how it helped a business produce, move, or sell more goods. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What changed when Samuel Slater's mill began operating in 1793?	Before 1793, people spun thread by hand at home. Slater's water-powered machines made thread faster and in larger amounts.
2	How did river water help the textile mill increase production?	River water turned a wheel that powered the machines, helping workers produce more thread.
3	How did railroads connect factories to customers?	Railroads moved raw materials to factories and carried finished products to distant customers.
4	Why did steamboats and railroads help businesses sell more goods?	They moved people, supplies, and goods more quickly and reliably, so businesses could ship and sell more in less time.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A grain farm could use railroads to send bags of grain to faraway cities. The railroad would move the grain faster than a wagon. The farm could reach more customers and sell more grain.

Accept responses that name a passage technology, connect it to a specific task in a new business, and clearly explain an increase in speed, production, shipping, or sales. Wording may vary.