

Growth Engines

Trace the forces that help an economy produce and exchange more.

SS.6.E.1.1 "Identify the factors (e.g., new resources, increased productivity, education, technology, slave economy, territorial expansion) that increase economic growth."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that names or describes a factor that can increase economic growth. Number the different factors you find so you can compare how each one works.

Forces Behind Growth

- ① During the early 1800s, the United States gained land through purchases, treaties, and war. Territorial expansion gave farmers and businesses access to more soil, forests, rivers, and minerals. These new resources could be used to grow crops, build towns, or make goods. A river could power a mill and carry products to market. More land did not automatically create growth, but people could invest labor and money to turn resources into useful products and services for buyers.
- ② Technology also changed how quickly workers and machines could produce goods. For example, the cotton gin, patented in 1794, separated cotton fibers from seeds much faster than hand cleaning. This increased productivity, meaning more output could be made with similar time or effort. In the South, a slave economy forced enslaved people to labor on many cotton plantations. Cotton profits helped some plantation owners, merchants, and textile businesses grow, while enslaved people endured violence, lost freedom, and received no fair pay.
- ③ Education is another growth factor. Schools and apprenticeships helped people learn to read, calculate, keep records, and use new tools. Skilled workers could repair machines, improve products, and manage businesses. New technology such as railroads connected farms, mines, and factories to distant markets. Railroads lowered travel time and moved supplies and goods in larger amounts. When resources, skills, technology, and investment worked together, businesses often produced more and reached more customers. Economic growth could occur, but its benefits were not shared equally.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How could territorial expansion increase economic growth, according to the passage?

2 What did the cotton gin do, and how did it increase productivity?

3 How did the slave economy help some businesses grow, and what did it cost enslaved people?

4 How could education and railroads work together to increase economic growth?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a small town that wants to grow economically. Describe two factors from the passage that the town could use, explain how each could increase growth, and include one sentence about who may benefit and why the benefits may not be equal.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that names or describes a factor that can increase economic growth. Number the different factors you find so you can compare how each one works. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could territorial expansion increase economic growth, according to the passage?	It gave farmers and businesses access to more land and resources, such as soil, forests, rivers, and minerals, that could be used to produce goods and services.
2	What did the cotton gin do, and how did it increase productivity?	It separated cotton fibers from seeds faster than hand cleaning. This allowed more cotton to be processed with similar time or effort.
3	How did the slave economy help some businesses grow, and what did it cost enslaved people?	Forced labor on cotton plantations helped create profits for some plantation owners, merchants, and textile businesses. Enslaved people suffered violence, lost freedom, and received no fair pay.
4	How could education and railroads work together to increase economic growth?	Education helped workers gain skills to use tools, repair machines, and manage businesses. Railroads moved supplies and goods to distant markets more quickly and in larger amounts.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pine Ridge finds a clay deposit near town, so a pottery business can make bowls and bricks to sell. The town also opens evening classes where workers learn to measure materials and repair kilns. These resources and education can raise production and create jobs. Shop owners and trained workers may benefit first, while families without access to classes may receive fewer benefits.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect a named factor to producing more goods, improving work, gaining resources, or reaching markets. For the open response, accept any realistic town scenario using two factors and a thoughtful statement about unequal benefits.