

Routes to Growth

Trace how new transportation changed the American economy.

SS.8.A.4.5 "Explain the causes, course, and consequences of the 19th century transportation revolution on the growth of the nation's economy."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two causes of the transportation revolution, circle each transportation change, and number two economic consequences to trace cause, course, and result.

Moving Goods, Growing Markets

- ① During the early 1800s, farmers and manufacturers often faced high shipping costs and slow travel. Rough roads turned muddy, rivers did not reach every market, and moving goods by wagon took time. Business owners wanted reliable ways to reach distant buyers, while settlers and growing towns needed supplies. State governments, private investors, and the federal government supported new transportation projects. These needs and investments helped begin a transportation revolution that connected regions of the United States more closely.
- ② Canals were an early answer. The Erie Canal, completed in 1825, linked the Hudson River to Lake Erie and lowered the cost of shipping goods between the Great Lakes region and eastern markets. Steamboats carried people and freight upstream and downstream on major rivers. In the 1830s and 1840s, railroads expanded quickly because trains could operate in more places and in more seasons than boats. By the 1850s, rail lines tied many cities, farms, mines, and factories to wider markets.
- ③ Faster, cheaper transportation changed the national economy. Farmers could send wheat, cotton, and other crops to faraway markets more cheaply, and factory owners could obtain raw materials and sell finished products in distant places. Towns along canals and railroads grew into trade centers. Regions became more economically connected: western farms supplied food, southern plantations supplied cotton, and northeastern factories made manufactured goods. The revolution also sped migration and encouraged settlement farther west. However, railroad building required large investments and sometimes damaged Native American lands and communities as expansion continued.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What problems and needs helped cause the transportation revolution? Give two details from the passage.

2 How did the Erie Canal change the movement of goods between the Great Lakes region and eastern markets?

3 Why did railroads expand quickly in the 1830s and 1840s?

4 Explain two ways faster, cheaper transportation changed the nation's economy.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose the Erie Canal, steamboats, or railroads. Write four sentences that explain a need that led to its growth, how it moved people or goods, and two consequences for the economy or settlement.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two causes of the transportation revolution, circle each transportation change, and number two economic consequences to trace cause, course, and result. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problems and needs helped cause the transportation revolution? Give two details from the passage.	High shipping costs, slow wagon travel, muddy roads, limited rivers, the need to reach distant buyers, and the need to supply settlers and towns helped cause it. Any two details are acceptable.
2	How did the Erie Canal change the movement of goods between the Great Lakes region and eastern markets?	It linked the Hudson River to Lake Erie and lowered the cost of shipping goods between the Great Lakes region and eastern markets.
3	Why did railroads expand quickly in the 1830s and 1840s?	Trains could operate in more places and during more seasons than boats.
4	Explain two ways faster, cheaper transportation changed the nation's economy.	Answers may include cheaper access to faraway markets, easier movement of raw materials and finished goods, growth of trade centers, and stronger economic connections among regions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

High shipping costs and the need for access to distant markets helped cause the Erie Canal project. Completed in 1825, the canal linked the Hudson River and Lake Erie, giving shippers a cheaper route between the Great Lakes region and eastern markets. Lower costs let more goods move to buyers, expanding trade. Communities along the canal grew into trade centers, strengthening the national economy.

Accept accurate cause, course, and consequence explanations that use one transportation development from the passage. For consequences, accept economic effects, settlement growth, migration, or the harmful effects of expansion on Native American lands and communities.