

Work, Trade, and Life

How regional specialization shaped life in the North and South

SS4E1.c "Describe how specialization improves standards of living (e.g., differences in the economies in the North and South)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each example of a region specializing in a kind of work. Circle each detail that tells how specialization or trade affected people's standards of living.

Different Work, Connected Regions

- ① Before the Civil War, regions of the United States specialized in different work. In the North, many workers made cloth, tools, shoes, and machines in factories. Northern farms also raised food for nearby cities. Factory jobs and city markets created demand for workers, builders, shopkeepers, and people who moved goods by canal, railroad, or ship. This work supported busy towns.
- ② In the South, warm weather and rich soil helped large farms grow cotton, tobacco, rice, and sugar cane. Many Southern planters specialized in cash crops, crops sold for money. Enslaved people were forced to do much of the labor, so plantation owners gained wealth while enslaved families were denied freedom, wages, and control over their lives. Southern ports shipped crops to buyers.
- ③ Specialization can improve standards of living when people become skilled at one kind of work and trade for what they need. A Northern factory could make many shoes, while a Southern farm could grow much cotton. Trade gave buyers more choices and often lower prices. Still, benefits were not shared fairly. Enslaved people did not receive the gains from their labor, and many workers faced low pay and hard conditions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did Northern specialization create jobs for people besides factory workers?

2 What did many Southern planters specialize in growing, and who was forced to do much of the labor?

3 According to the passage, how could trade improve standards of living?

4 Why did specialization not improve life fairly for everyone in the South?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Invent two neighboring towns that specialize in different products. Write three sentences that name each specialty, explain what the towns trade, and tell how the trade could improve life for people in both towns.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each example of a region specializing in a kind of work. Circle each detail that tells how specialization or trade affected people's standards of living. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Northern specialization create jobs for people besides factory workers?	Factories and city markets needed builders, shopkeepers, and people to move goods by canal, railroad, or ship.
2	What did many Southern planters specialize in growing, and who was forced to do much of the labor?	They specialized in cash crops such as cotton, tobacco, rice, and sugar cane. Enslaved people were forced to do much of the labor.
3	According to the passage, how could trade improve standards of living?	Trade gave buyers more choices and often lower prices, helping people get goods they needed.
4	Why did specialization not improve life fairly for everyone in the South?	Plantation owners gained wealth, but enslaved people were denied freedom, wages, and control over their lives. They did not receive the gains from their labor.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pine Hill specializes in making warm blankets. River Bend grows apples, and the towns trade blankets for apples. Each town gets more of what it needs, and workers in both towns can earn money for their work.

Accept reasonable invented towns, products, and trade relationships. The response should show that specializing and trading can help people get needed goods or earn income.