

Business Moves Faster

Technology changed how early American businesses made, moved, and sold goods.

SS4E1.f "Give examples of technological advancements and their impact on business productivity during the development of the United States (e.g., cotton gin, steamboat, steam locomotive, and telegraph)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each technological advancement. Circle the words or phrases that tell how it helped a business, then number each invention and its impact with the same number.

Tools That Changed Business

- ① In the early United States, many farmers grew cotton. Removing sticky seeds from cotton fibers by hand took a long time. In 1793, Eli Whitney's cotton gin used moving teeth to separate seeds from fibers faster. Farmers could prepare much more cotton for sale. Cotton businesses expanded, and mills had more cotton to turn into cloth.
- ② Steam power also changed travel and shipping. Steamboats used steam engines to move against river currents, so businesses could send goods upriver more dependably. Steam locomotives pulled cars on railroad tracks. Railroads carried people, raw materials, and finished products over land faster than wagons. Stores and factories could receive supplies and send products to customers in places far away.
- ③ The telegraph sent coded messages along wires almost immediately. Before it, news and business orders traveled by person, horse, or train. A merchant could use the telegraph to learn a price in another city and order goods quickly. Faster messages helped businesses make decisions, avoid delays, and organize work. These inventions increased productivity, meaning businesses could complete more work in less time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the cotton gin help cotton businesses produce more goods?

2 Choose either the steamboat or the steam locomotive. How did it help a business move goods?

3 What could a merchant do with the telegraph that would help the merchant avoid a delay?

4 What was one shared impact of these technological advancements on businesses? Use two inventions from the passage as evidence.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Pretend you own a store that sells cotton cloth. Write four sentences explaining how two inventions from the passage could help your store get more goods or work more quickly.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each technological advancement. Circle the words or phrases that tell how it helped a business, then number each invention and its impact with the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the cotton gin help cotton businesses produce more goods?	It separated cotton seeds from fibers faster, so farmers could prepare more cotton for sale and mills had more cotton for cloth.
2	Choose either the steamboat or the steam locomotive. How did it help a business move goods?	Steamboats moved goods upriver more dependably, or steam locomotives carried raw materials and finished products over land faster than wagons.
3	What could a merchant do with the telegraph that would help the merchant avoid a delay?	A merchant could quickly learn a price in another city and order goods.
4	What was one shared impact of these technological advancements on businesses? Use two inventions from the passage as evidence.	They increased productivity by helping businesses complete more work in less time. For example, the cotton gin prepared cotton faster, and the telegraph sent business messages quickly.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I own a store that sells cotton cloth. The cotton gin helps mills get more cotton fibers for making cloth. The steam locomotive can carry the cloth to my store faster than a wagon. These inventions help my business get more goods in less time.

Accept any two passage inventions if the student accurately explains a business impact. The response should connect the inventions to faster work, more goods, quicker communication, or more dependable transportation.