

Cars on the Move

How specialized work can raise output and lower prices

SS5E1.c "Describe how specialization can improve standards of living and productivity (e.g., how Henry Ford's use of the assembly line reduced the price of automobiles)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show how workers specialized, and circle results that show higher productivity or a better standard of living.

Ford's Faster Factory

- ① In the early 1900s, building a car took many skilled workers. One worker might fit several parts onto a car before moving to another job. Ford Motor Company organized work differently. At its Highland Park factory, each worker specialized in one small task, such as attaching a wheel or placing a part in an engine. Workers repeated their task as cars moved past them.
- ② This system was called an assembly line. Because each person practiced one task, workers could do it quickly and with fewer delays. Parts and tools were kept nearby, so workers did not spend as much time searching or switching jobs. The factory could make more cars in less time. This increase in output is called higher productivity.
- ③ Ford's factory made Model T cars faster, which helped lower their price. In 1908, a Model T cost \$825. By 1925, its price had fallen to \$260. More families could afford a car, making travel and getting goods easier for them. When specialized workers make more useful products at lower prices, people can often buy more of what they need or want. This can improve standards of living.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did specialization change the job of a worker at Ford's factory?

2 What are two reasons the assembly line helped the factory make more cars in less time?

3 How did higher productivity help lower the price of the Model T?

4 How could a lower-priced Model T improve a family's standard of living? Use one detail from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a product people use, such as bread, shirts, or notebooks. Write 3 sentences that name two specialized jobs and explain how specialization could increase productivity and improve standards of living.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show how workers specialized, and circle results that show higher productivity or a better standard of living. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did specialization change the job of a worker at Ford's factory?	Instead of doing several jobs, each worker repeated one small task, such as attaching a wheel or placing an engine part.
2	What are two reasons the assembly line helped the factory make more cars in less time?	Workers practiced and repeated one task, so they worked quickly with fewer delays. Parts and tools were nearby, and workers spent less time searching or switching jobs.
3	How did higher productivity help lower the price of the Model T?	The factory made cars faster and produced more cars in less time, which helped lower the Model T's price.
4	How could a lower-priced Model T improve a family's standard of living? Use one detail from the passage.	More families could afford a car. A car could make travel and getting goods easier.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a bakery, one worker mixes dough, and another worker shapes loaves. Repeating these jobs helps the bakery make more bread with fewer delays. If bread costs less, families can buy it more easily, which can improve their standards of living.

Accept answers that connect repeated, focused jobs to making more products in less time. For standards of living, accept a clear explanation that lower prices or easier access helps people afford or use needed or wanted goods.