

America Transforms

Trace changes in work, cities, and daily life around 1900.

SS5H1 "Describe how life changed in America at the turn of the century."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show a change in how Americans lived or worked. Circle one nearby detail that tells a benefit or problem of each change, and write 1, 2, or 3 to match each pair.

Life in a Changing Nation

- ① At the start of the 1900s, many Americans left farms for growing cities. Factories offered jobs making steel, clothing, and other goods. City streets had tall buildings, electric lights, streetcars, and crowded apartment houses. Farm families often knew their neighbors well, but city workers met people from many places. Moving to a city could bring wages, yet it also brought noise, smoke, and little space.
- ② At Ellis Island in New York Harbor, immigration officials examined many newcomers before they entered the United States. People arrived from Europe and other parts of the world, hoping for work or safety. Some immigrants found factory jobs or opened small stores. They brought languages, foods, and traditions that shaped city neighborhoods. However, newcomers sometimes faced unfair treatment and had to learn new customs.
- ③ Industrial growth changed how goods were made and sold. Large companies owned factories, mines, railroads, or oil businesses. Because these businesses made huge amounts of goods, prices could fall and products reached more buyers. At the same time, owners gained great power, while many workers earned low pay and worked long hours. Workers formed unions to seek safer workplaces, shorter hours, and better pay.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Why did many Americans move from farms to cities? Name one result of city growth that changed daily life.

- 2 Give two ways daily life in a growing city differed from life on a farm.

- 3 How did immigrants shape city neighborhoods? Name one difficulty that some newcomers faced.

- 4 Explain one way industrial growth helped buyers and one way factory work could be hard for workers.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine that you are a child whose family moves from a farm to a city in 1905. Write a three-sentence journal entry that describes one new part of daily life, one opportunity, and one problem.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show a change in how Americans lived or worked. Circle one nearby detail that tells a benefit or problem of each change, and write 1, 2, or 3 to match each pair. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did many Americans move from farms to cities? Name one result of city growth that changed daily life.	They moved to find factory jobs and wages. City growth brought features such as tall buildings, electric lights, streetcars, crowded apartments, noise, or smoke.
2	Give two ways daily life in a growing city differed from life on a farm.	Answers may include crowded apartment houses, electric lights, streetcars, tall buildings, more noise and smoke, less space, and meeting people from many places rather than knowing neighbors well.
3	How did immigrants shape city neighborhoods? Name one difficulty that some newcomers faced.	They brought languages, foods, and traditions to neighborhoods. Some faced unfair treatment or had to learn new customs.
4	Explain one way industrial growth helped buyers and one way factory work could be hard for workers.	Large companies made huge amounts of goods, so prices could fall and more buyers could get products. Many workers earned low pay and worked long hours.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Today my family moved into a crowded apartment near the factory. My mother hopes factory work will bring wages, and I like riding the electric streetcar. Still, the smoke and noise make me miss our quiet farm.

Accept accurate passage-based details stated in the student's own words. For Part 3, look for exactly three sentences that include a city-life change, an opportunity, and a problem connected to the period.