

War Work, Georgia

Evaluate how wartime sites supported the military and changed local economies.

SS8H9.b "Evaluate the purpose and economic impact of the Bell Bomber Plant, military bases, and the Savannah and Brunswick shipyards."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each site's wartime purpose, circle each economic effect, and write B, M, or S beside details about the Bell plant, military bases, or shipyards.

Georgia's Wartime Economy

- ① During World War II, the Bell Bomber Plant in Marietta was built to produce B-29 Superfortress bombers for the U.S. military. Its purpose was to supply aircraft for the war, but its effects reached beyond the factory gates. Thousands of workers, including many women, earned wages there. Workers spent money on housing, food, stores, and services. The plant also drew people to the area, helping Marietta and nearby communities grow. When wartime production ended, the plant's work slowed, showing that this boom depended on military contracts.
- ② Georgia's military bases served the national war effort by training soldiers, pilots, and other personnel and by supporting military operations. Fort Benning, Camp Stewart, and other installations brought large numbers of service members and civilian employees into local areas. Federal spending paid for construction, supplies, and wages. Nearby businesses sold meals, clothing, transportation, and other goods. The bases therefore created jobs and customers, even for people who did not work for the military. Communities also faced crowded housing and heavier demands on roads and public services.
- ③ Georgia's shipyards in Savannah and Brunswick built cargo ships, including Liberty ships, that carried troops and supplies across oceans. Their purpose was vital because armies needed fuel, food, equipment, and weapons delivered quickly. Like the bomber plant, the yards hired many workers and increased local spending. They also relied on suppliers for steel, lumber, tools, and transportation, spreading economic activity beyond the docks. Wartime work changed coastal cities by increasing population and business activity. After the war, canceled contracts and reduced production showed that shipyard prosperity was closely tied to wartime demand.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What was the Bell Bomber Plant's military purpose, and what was one economic effect it had on the Marietta area?

2 How did military bases create economic benefits for people who did not work for the military?

3 Why did the Savannah and Brunswick shipyards affect businesses beyond the docks? Use two types of suppliers named in the passage.

4 What evidence in the passage shows that some wartime economic growth was temporary? Explain the cause of the slowdown.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose the Bell Bomber Plant or the Savannah and Brunswick shipyards. Write three sentences explaining why it may have had the broader local economic impact. Compare it with the other site and use two details from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each site's wartime purpose, circle each economic effect, and write B, M, or S beside details about the Bell plant, military bases, or shipyards. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What was the Bell Bomber Plant's military purpose, and what was one economic effect it had on the Marietta area?	It produced B-29 Superfortress bombers for the U.S. military. It created wages and spending at local housing, food, stores, and service businesses, and it helped the area grow.
2	How did military bases create economic benefits for people who did not work for the military?	Federal spending brought service members and civilian employees to local areas. Those people became customers for nearby businesses that sold meals, clothing, transportation, and other goods.
3	Why did the Savannah and Brunswick shipyards affect businesses beyond the docks? Use two types of suppliers named in the passage.	The shipyards needed suppliers, so they spread economic activity beyond the docks. Accept any two: steel, lumber, tools, or transportation.
4	What evidence in the passage shows that some wartime economic growth was temporary? Explain the cause of the slowdown.	After the war, Bell plant work slowed, and shipyard contracts were canceled and production was reduced. The growth depended on wartime military demand and contracts, which declined after the war.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Compared with the Bell Bomber Plant, the Savannah and Brunswick shipyards may have had the broader local economic impact. The shipyards hired workers and also created business for suppliers of steel, lumber, tools, and transportation. Their workers and suppliers spread wartime spending beyond the docks, although this prosperity depended on wartime demand.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For the open response, accept either choice when the student compares the two sites and uses two accurate details to support a reasonable claim.