Tools That Grow

How technology helps Idaho businesses grow

4.SS.3.5 "Describe examples of historic and current technological innovations in relation to economic growth in Idaho."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two older and two newer technologies in the passage. Circle words that show how each one helped or helps Idaho earn money or create jobs.

Idaho's Changing Tools

1. Long ago, much of southern Idaho was dry land. Farmers dug canals to carry water from rivers to fields. With steady water, they could grow more crops, including potatoes. Selling more crops helped farms earn money and gave workers jobs. The canals did not make rain fall, but they made farming possible in places where crops could not grow well before.

2. Growing a crop is only part of earning money. In the past, refrigerated railroad cars helped Idaho farmers ship potatoes and other food over long distances with less spoilage. More buyers could get Idaho food, so farmers had more chances to sell it. Today, some farms use soil sensors to check when fields need water. Using water carefully can lower costs and keep crops growing.

3. Technology also brings work beyond farms. In Boise, Micron uses specialized machines to make computer memory chips. The company needs people to run machines, solve problems, and build new tools. These jobs pay workers, who spend money at local shops. When Idaho companies sell products to customers in other places, that money can support more businesses and jobs in the state.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did canals help Idaho farms earn money?

2. How did refrigerated railroad cars give Idaho farmers more chances to sell food?

3. How can soil sensors help an Idaho farm save money today?

4. How can Micron's chip-making machines help other Idaho businesses?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new tool for an Idaho business not named in the passage. In two or three sentences, name the business and tool, explain how the tool works, and describe how it could help the business earn money or create jobs.

ANSWER KEY

Tools That Grow

GRADE 4 · 4.SS.3.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two older and two newer technologies in the passage. Circle words that show how each one helped or helps Idaho earn money or create jobs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did canals help Idaho farms earn money?	**Canals brought water to fields, so farms could grow and sell more crops.**
2	How did refrigerated railroad cars give Idaho farmers more chances to sell food?	**They let farmers ship food farther with less spoilage, reaching more buyers.**
3	How can soil sensors help an Idaho farm save money today?	**They show when fields need water, helping the farm use water carefully and lower costs.**
4	How can Micron's chip-making machines help other Idaho businesses?	**The machines support jobs at Micron. Workers spend their pay at local shops.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

An Idaho furniture shop could use a scanner that finds cracks inside wood before workers cut it. Workers could choose stronger boards and waste less wood. The shop could sell more sturdy tables and hire another worker.

Accept answers that connect each technology to selling more products, lowering costs, or supporting jobs. For Your Turn, the proposed tool should have a clear use and a believable effect on an Idaho business.