Connected and Changed

How new tools linked work and trade across three regions

6-12.US1.32 "Analyze the communication, industrial and agricultural changes and their impact on the social and economic lives of people in the North, South, and West."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one change in each region, then circle the effects it had on people's work, income, or daily lives. Number each underlined change and its related effects with the same number.

Work and Trade in the 1850s

(1) In the 1850s, a worker in a Northern town might start her day at a textile mill. Machines turned cotton into cloth faster than hand spinning and weaving, so mill owners hired many wage workers, including young women. Pay gave workers some independence, but long hours and noisy rooms shaped daily life. Railroads brought Southern cotton to mills and carried finished cloth to buyers. Telegraph wires let merchants send orders much faster than letters could travel. Northern factories also built farm machines for Western buyers. These links created jobs, but workers depended on factory wages and changing demand.

(2) In the South, cotton planters used cotton gins to separate seeds from cotton fiber quickly. That change made growing cotton for sale more profitable and encouraged planters to expand their fields. They forced enslaved people to plant and pick much of the cotton; the gin did not make this labor unnecessary. Railroads and steamboats moved bales toward ports and Northern mills, while telegraph messages helped merchants learn prices sooner. Cotton sales brought wealth to some white planters and merchants. At the same time, expansion intensified slavery, separated families through forced sales, and left the region heavily tied to cotton.

(3) Across the West, farmers growing wheat and other grains faced a different problem: a family could harvest only so much by hand. A mechanical reaper cut grain faster, allowing some families to farm larger fields and sell more grain. The machine cost money, however, and a poor harvest could leave a buyer in debt. Railroads carried grain to distant markets and brought Northern farm machines west. Telegraph stations sent news of prices, helping farmers decide when to sell. New markets offered income, but they also made families depend more on distant buyers and on railroad routes to reach them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did railroads and telegraph wires help Northern mills do business? Include one effect on workers.

2. Why did faster cotton processing bring wealth to some Southerners while increasing harm to enslaved people?

3. How did the reaper and railroads together change Western farmers' chances to earn money and their risks?

4. Choose one connection between two regions in the passage. How did that connection affect work or trade in each region?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a Western farming family must borrow money to buy a reaper. In four sentences, advise them whether to buy it, explaining a change in their work, a possible way to earn money, a financial risk, and an effect their choice could have on people in the North.

ANSWER KEY

Connected and Changed

GRADES 6-12 · 6-12.US1.32

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one change in each region, then circle the effects it had on people's work, income, or daily lives. Number each underlined change and its related effects 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 railroads and telegraph wires help Northern mills do business? Include one effect on workers.	**Railroads brought cotton to mills and carried cloth to buyers, while telegraph wires delivered orders quickly. This business created wage jobs, though workers depended on changing demand.**
2	Why did faster cotton processing bring wealth to some Southerners while increasing harm to enslaved people?	**Cotton gins made cotton production more profitable for some planters and merchants. As planters expanded their fields, they forced enslaved people to grow and pick more cotton, and forced sales separated families.**
3	How did the reaper and railroads together change Western farmers' chances to earn money and their risks?	**Reapers let some farmers harvest and sell more grain, and railroads carried it to distant markets. Farmers risked debt from buying a machine and depended on railroad routes and distant buyers.**
4	Choose one connection between two regions in the passage. How did that connection affect work or trade in each region?	**Southern cotton traveled to Northern mills, giving Southern planters a buyer and providing cotton for Northern textile jobs. Accept another passage-supported connection and an effect in each region.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would buy the reaper only if our farm is large enough to sell extra grain. It could let us harvest a larger field in less time. Selling more grain could help us repay the loan, but a poor harvest might leave us in debt because the machine costs money. Buying it would also support jobs at a Northern factory that makes farm machines.

For Part 3, accept either recommendation if all four required effects are explained and the financial risk centers on the machine's cost or debt. For Part 2, accept other cause-and-effect connections supported by the passage.