More in an Hour

How work has changed in Indiana

4.E.2 "Define productivity, and provide examples of how productivity has changed in Indiana during the past century."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the passage. Underline the sentence that defines productivity, then circle one older tool or method and one newer tool or method in each Indiana example.

Changing Work in Indiana

1. Imagine two workers packing the same kind of box. One packs 10 boxes in an hour, and the other packs 20. The second worker has higher productivity. Productivity means the amount of goods or services one worker can produce in a set time. It can rise when a worker has better tools or a smarter way to do the work. The time must stay the same for a fair comparison.

2. About a century ago, many Indiana farmers used horses and hand tools for farm jobs. Gathering corn could take many hours of hard work. Today, a farmer can use a combine to gather and separate corn kernels much faster. One farmer can harvest more corn in one hour than a farmer using older tools could. This is a change in productivity, not a change in how long an hour lasts.

3. Indiana factories have changed, too. About a century ago, workers in many factories made parts with hand tools or machines they had to guide closely. Today, some factories use computer-controlled machines to cut parts and robots to weld them. A worker can oversee machines that make many parts in an hour. New tools can raise productivity because they help workers make more goods in the same amount of time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does productivity mean?

2. How has the change from older farm tools to a combine affected productivity on Indiana farms?

3. How can newer machines raise productivity in an Indiana factory?

4. Why must you compare the same amount of time when you decide which worker has higher productivity?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new tool for an Indiana bakery. Write three sentences that tell what one worker makes in an hour before using your tool, what your tool does, and how many items the worker makes in an hour with it.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · 4.E.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the passage. Underline the sentence that defines productivity, then circle one older tool or method and one newer tool or method in each Indiana example. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does productivity mean?	**The amount of goods or services one worker can produce in a set time.**
2	How has the change from older farm tools to a combine affected productivity on Indiana farms?	**A farmer using a combine can harvest more corn in one hour than a farmer using older tools could.**
3	How can newer machines raise productivity in an Indiana factory?	**A worker can oversee machines that make more parts in an hour.**
4	Why must you compare the same amount of time when you decide which worker has higher productivity?	**Productivity compares how much workers produce in a set time, so the time must be the same for a fair comparison.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At an Indiana bakery, one worker shapes 20 rolls by hand in an hour. My new dough press shapes several rolls at once. With the press, the worker shapes 60 rolls in an hour.

For Part 3, accept any plausible new bakery tool that helps one worker make more items in the same one-hour period. The before and after amounts should make the increase clear.