Routes That Connect

How travel routes shaped Indiana

4.G.6 "Explain the importance of major transportation routes in the exploration, settlement, and growth of Indiana and in the state's location as a crossroad of America."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each named transportation route. Underline three details that show how routes helped people explore, settle, or grow Indiana.

Traveling Through Indiana

1 Imagine reaching Indiana before paved roads existed. Rivers were the first travel routes for many people. Native peoples used the Wabash and Ohio rivers to travel and trade long before Europeans arrived. Later, French explorers and traders traveled these waterways too. Canoes could carry people and supplies farther than travelers could easily walk through thick forests. River routes helped newcomers explore the land and connect with other places.

2 In the 1800s, settlers needed ways to move families, crops, and tools. The National Road crossed Indiana from east to west, passing through Indianapolis. Wagons brought settlers to towns along the road, and farmers could send goods to markets. Railroads later moved people and farm products faster than wagons. As stops became busy, towns gained stores and jobs. These routes helped Indiana's communities grow.

3 Today, major highways make Indiana a meeting place for travelers and goods. Interstate 65 runs north and south through Indianapolis, while Interstate 70 runs east and west through the city. Trucks can switch routes there to reach places in different directions. This crossing helps businesses ship products and brings travelers to Indiana towns. Indiana's routes connect regions around the state, which helps explain its nickname, the Crossroads of America.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Wabash and Ohio rivers help people explore Indiana before paved roads?

2. How did the National Road help people settle in Indiana?

3. How did railroads help Indiana towns grow?

4. Why does the crossing of Interstate 65 and Interstate 70 help make Indiana a Crossroads of America?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are planning a market in an Indiana town in the 1800s. In three sentences, explain where you would place it near two kinds of routes from the passage and how each route would help the market.

ANSWER KEY

Routes That Connect

GRADE 4 · 4.G.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each named transportation route. Underline three details that show how routes helped people explore, settle, or grow Indiana. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Wabash and Ohio rivers help people explore Indiana before paved roads?	**People could travel by canoe on the rivers, carrying supplies farther than they could easily walk through forests.**
2	How did the National Road help people settle in Indiana?	**Wagons brought settlers to towns along the road, and farmers could send goods to markets.**
3	How did railroads help Indiana towns grow?	**Trains moved people and farm products faster than wagons. Busy stops helped towns gain stores and jobs.**
4	Why does the crossing of Interstate 65 and Interstate 70 help make Indiana a Crossroads of America?	**The highways run in different directions through Indianapolis, so trucks can switch routes to reach more places and ship products.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would place the market in a town near the National Road and a railroad stop. Wagons on the road could bring farmers and shoppers from nearby places. Trains could bring goods from farther away, giving the market more to sell and helping the town grow.

Accept answers that connect a route to a specific way it supported exploration, settlement, or growth. For Your Turn, the two routes must fit the 1800s setting, and each must have a clear role in helping the market.