Across the Atlantic

How industry changed trade and cultural exchange

6.H.11 "Identify an impact of industrialization on trade and cultural exchange between Europe and the Americas."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways industrialization changed trade between Europe and the Americas. Circle two ways it changed cultural exchange.

More Than Cargo

1 In the 1800s, a ship arriving in New York might unload cloth made in British factories. Before factories, making cloth by hand took much longer. Industrial machines turned raw cotton into large amounts of cloth, so merchants could offer more cloth for sale across the Atlantic Ocean. Before 1865, much of that cotton was grown by enslaved people in the southern United States and traveled to Britain first. Trade now connected American farms, British factories, and buyers in the Americas in a chain that crossed the ocean twice.

2 Steam-powered ships changed the trip itself. Unlike sailing ships, they did not have to rely only on wind. Their more reliable schedules helped merchants plan shipments between Europe and the Americas. Railroads built during industrialization carried goods from inland farms and factories to ports, then carried imported goods away from the docks. A merchant could send cotton toward a port and expect new shipments of cloth to reach inland stores. Faster, more dependable travel made it easier to trade goods over long distances.

3 Ships carried more than goods. In the 1800s, many people moved from Europe to the Americas on steamships. They brought languages, songs, and cooking traditions into growing port cities. Improved printing machines could make newspapers and books in larger numbers, and ships carried these printed pages across the Atlantic. Readers could learn about events and ideas from the other side of the ocean. Industrialization did not create cultural exchange, but faster travel and mass printing helped more people share customs and ideas across the Atlantic.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did British factories change cloth trade between Europe and the Americas?

2. How did steamships and railroads work together to change trade across the Atlantic?

3. How did steamship travel affect cultural exchange in American port cities?

4. How did improved printing machines affect the exchange of ideas across the Atlantic?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label for an imagined travel trunk carried from Europe to the Americas in the 1800s. Name one cultural item inside that the passage does not mention, and explain how industrialization changed both trade and cultural exchange along the same route.

ANSWER KEY # Across the Atlantic

GRADE 6 · 6.H.11

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways industrialization changed trade between Europe and the Americas. Circle two ways it changed cultural exchange. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did British factories change cloth trade between Europe and the Americas?	**Machines made large amounts of cloth from cotton, so merchants could offer more British cloth for sale in the Americas.**
2	How did steamships and railroads work together to change trade across the Atlantic?	**Railroads moved goods between inland areas and ports. Steamships carried goods across the ocean on more reliable schedules, making shipments easier to plan.**
3	How did steamship travel affect cultural exchange in American port cities?	**People arriving from Europe brought languages, songs, and cooking traditions that they shared in port cities.**
4	How did improved printing machines affect the exchange of ideas across the Atlantic?	**They made more newspapers and books, which ships carried across the Atlantic so readers could learn about events and ideas from the other side.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

This trunk holds a handwritten recipe for rye bread carried by a passenger from Germany to New York. Steam-powered ships made ocean trips faster and carried factory-made cloth to American ports. As people shared recipes in new neighborhoods, those shipping routes supported both trade and cultural exchange.

Accept other passage-supported links between industrialization and trade or cultural exchange. For Part 3, the trunk item should be plausible and more specific than an item named in the passage.