How Indiana Industrialized

Trace the conditions behind Indiana's industrial growth

IS.1.8 "Describe the economic developments that transformed Indiana into a major industrial power and the factors necessary for industrialization."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline conditions that made industrial growth possible, then circle the industries or economic changes those conditions helped create.

From Farms to Factories

1 Imagine a wagon of Indiana corn in 1850. A farmer could sell nearby, but distant buyers were harder to reach. The Wabash and Erie Canal connected some inland towns to wider markets, although canals were slow and costly to maintain. As railroads spread after the Civil War, they moved crops, livestock, and manufactured goods in every season. Farmers sold more to growing cities, while factories gained customers and steady deliveries of raw materials. Towns along rail lines attracted warehouses and workshops. Transportation did not create factories by itself, but it made large-scale production and sales more practical.

2 In the 1880s, a large natural gas field was found beneath east-central Indiana. Cheap fuel drew glassmakers and other manufacturers to towns such as Muncie and Anderson. Investors built plants, hired workers, and used gas to heat furnaces and power some equipment. Yet gas supplies fell as the field was depleted by the early 1900s. Some factories closed or changed fuel sources. This boom showed why an energy source matters to industry, and why relying on one resource can put jobs at risk. Factory growth also required money for machinery and people trained to operate it.

3 Along Lake Michigan, a different set of advantages supported heavy industry. U.S. Steel began building Gary in 1906, near water routes that brought iron ore from the Lake Superior region and railroads that carried coal and finished steel. Steel mills there soon supplied construction and manufacturing beyond Indiana. Elsewhere, South Bend's Studebaker company shifted from horse-drawn vehicles to automobiles, showing how firms adapted to new markets. Factory jobs drew workers from Indiana farms, other states, and abroad. Transport links, fuel, investment, workers, and changing technology together helped Indiana become a major industrial power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did expanding rail service help both Indiana farmers and factories grow?

2. Why did manufacturers move to east-central Indiana, and what made that advantage temporary?

3. Explain how Gary's location and transportation links helped it become a steelmaking center.

4. How did Gary's steel mills and Studebaker's shift to automobiles each change Indiana's economy?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

It is 1905. An Indiana town has rail service, nearby farms, and a dwindling natural gas supply. In 4 to 5 sentences, propose an industry it could develop and explain how at least two conditions would help it succeed without depending on the gas field.

ANSWER KEY

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline conditions that made industrial growth possible, then circle the industries or economic changes those conditions helped create. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did expanding rail service help both Indiana farmers and factories grow?	**Railroads helped farmers sell to distant city markets and helped factories receive raw materials and ship goods to customers year-round.**
2	Why did manufacturers move to east-central Indiana, and what made that advantage temporary?	**Cheap natural gas supplied fuel for manufacturing, especially glassmaking, but the gas field was depleted by the early 1900s.**
3	Explain how Gary's location and transportation links helped it become a steelmaking center.	**Water routes brought iron ore from the Lake Superior region, while railroads carried coal to Gary and finished steel to buyers.**
4	How did Gary's steel mills and Studebaker's shift to automobiles each change Indiana's economy?	**Gary's mills supplied steel for construction and manufacturing, while Studebaker added automobile production as demand for vehicles changed.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The town could build a food-canning plant that buys vegetables from nearby farms. Rail service would bring supplies to the plant and carry finished food to buyers in other cities. Investors would need to pay for machinery, and the plant would need workers to prepare and pack the food. Because the gas supply is dwindling, the plant should secure another reliable energy source instead of depending on cheap gas.

Accept other plausible industries if the response explains at least two supporting conditions and does not rely on the dwindling gas supply. For the questions, look for causal explanations rather than lists of resources.