Routes to Work

How population movement reshaped Indiana's economy

IS.3.6 "Identify immigration and migration patterns and describe their impact on the developments of agriculture, industry, mining, and transportation in Indiana."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline each moving group and where it came from, then circle where it settled or worked in Indiana. Put a star beside a change that group helped bring to farming, transportation, mining, or industry.

People, Work, and Routes in Indiana

1. In the early 1800s, families moved into Indiana from Kentucky and Ohio, especially to the southern part of the state. Many cleared land for farms and grew corn, raising crops to feed their households and sell. Their farms expanded as Native communities lost land through treaties and forced removals. Later, German immigrants settled in Indiana towns and farming areas, bringing farming experience and opening businesses that served nearby farms. As more people farmed, they needed ways to get heavy harvests to buyers. Population movement changed both the land being cultivated and the demand for routes to market.

2. In the 1830s and 1840s, Irish immigrants helped dig the Wabash and Erie Canal across northern Indiana. The canal connected inland towns with waterways leading toward larger markets. Farmers could send grain out more cheaply than by wagon, and merchants could bring goods in. By the late 1800s, railroads offered faster, more dependable year-round shipping and reached areas that canals did not. In southwestern Indiana, coal mines drew workers, including immigrants from Italy and eastern Europe. Miners dug fuel that trains carried to factories and cities. These routes connected farms and mines to customers beyond their local communities.

3. In 1906, the U.S. Steel Corporation began building a steel mill and the city of Gary beside Lake Michigan. Jobs drew immigrants from eastern and southern Europe, including Polish workers. During the Great Migration, Black Americans also moved north from southern states to seek industrial work, including jobs in Gary. These groups were not moving from the same places, but many entered the same growing industrial region. Ships brought iron ore across the Great Lakes, while railroads moved coal to the mills and finished steel to customers. New workers helped steel production expand, while the expanding industry gave still more people a reason to move.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did movement from Kentucky and Ohio change agriculture in southern Indiana?

2. How did Irish immigration affect transportation, and what difference did that make for farmers?

3. What migration pattern helped southwestern Indiana's coal mines grow, and how did the coal reach distant users?

4. How did two different movements of people contribute to Gary's steel industry?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 3 to 4 sentence label for a museum display about Indiana's rail network. Link two different kinds of work in the passage to rail shipping, and name a moving group associated with each kind of work.

Routes to Work

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline each moving group and where it came from, then circle where it settled or worked in Indiana. Put a star beside a change that group helped bring to farming, transportation, mining, or industry. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did movement from Kentucky and Ohio change agriculture in southern Indiana?	**Families from Kentucky and Ohio cleared land for farms and grew corn to eat and sell.**
2	How did Irish immigration affect transportation, and what difference did that make for farmers?	**Irish immigrants helped dig the Wabash and Erie Canal. It let farmers ship grain toward larger markets more cheaply than by wagon.**
3	What migration pattern helped southwestern Indiana's coal mines grow, and how did the coal reach distant users?	**The mines drew workers, including immigrants from Italy and eastern Europe. Trains carried the coal they dug to factories and cities.**
4	How did two different movements of people contribute to Gary's steel industry?	**Immigrants from eastern and southern Europe and Black migrants from southern states came for industrial work. These new workers helped Gary's steel production expand.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Immigrants from Italy and eastern Europe came to work in southwestern Indiana's coal mines. Railroads carried coal from mines to factories and cities. Black migrants from southern states moved to Gary for industrial jobs. Railroads carried finished steel from Gary's mills to customers.

Accept other passage-supported links between rail shipping and two kinds of work, such as farming and mining. Labels must name a moving group associated with each kind of work and contain 3 or 4 sentences.