Beyond State Lines

How connections shape Indiana's economy over time

IS.3.7 "Examine Indiana's relationships with states, countries, and world regions and understand the significance of these relationships to Indiana's past, present, and future."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline a connection between Indiana and another place, circle a benefit of that connection, and put a number beside one change or risk. Use 1 for the first paragraph, 2 for the second, and 3 for the third.

Three Routes Beyond Indiana

(1) In the 1800s, Indiana leaders wanted farmers to reach buyers beyond their own towns. The Wabash and Erie Canal connected Indiana with Ohio and a route to Lake Erie. Boats carried crops and supplies, linking Indiana communities to markets around the Great Lakes. That connection helped some towns grow, but the canal was costly to maintain, and railroads eventually offered faster service. The canal shows that a relationship with another state can change Indiana's economy even when the route itself does not last. What mattered was access to people and goods beyond the state line.

(2) Today, a different route connects northwest Indiana to Michigan. Steel made near Lake Michigan can travel to factories that build vehicles in Michigan. Those factories need materials, while Indiana mills need customers. The exchange supports jobs on both sides of the state line, but it also creates a risk: if vehicle makers buy less steel, Indiana mills may lose sales. Lake Michigan and nearby transportation networks help make this regional exchange possible. Unlike the canal, this link is not one waterway. It is a supply chain, a series of businesses that depend on one another.

(3) Indiana also has ties across the Pacific Ocean. Honda, a company based in Japan, assembles vehicles in Greensburg, Indiana. Its investment connects Indiana workers and suppliers with decisions made by a business headquartered in East Asia. The plant provides local jobs, while the company gains a place to build vehicles for the North American market. In the future, changes in what drivers buy could alter which vehicles and parts the plant needs. Indiana communities may benefit if workers and suppliers adapt, but they also face uncertainty if production changes. A global connection can create opportunities without guaranteeing them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Indiana's connection with Ohio expand opportunities for farmers in the 1800s, and why did the canal become less useful?

2. What economic benefit did Indiana gain from both the canal connection and its present-day connection with Michigan? How are the two connections different?

3. How do Indiana and the Japan-based company Honda each benefit from Honda's Greensburg plant?

4. How could a future change in what drivers buy affect Indiana's connection with Honda, and how might Indiana communities respond?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence recommendation to an Indiana economic planner. Choose whether to deepen ties with Michigan or Japan over the next decade, use two details from the passage, propose one new action, and explain one trade-off of your choice.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline a connection between Indiana and another place, circle a benefit of that connection, and put a number beside one change or risk. Use 1 for the first paragraph, 2 for the second, and 3 for the third. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Indiana's connection with Ohio expand opportunities for farmers in the 1800s, and why did the canal become less useful?	**The canal gave farmers a route to buyers and Great Lakes markets. It became less useful because maintenance was costly and railroads offered faster service.**
2	What economic benefit did Indiana gain from both the canal connection and its present-day connection with Michigan? How are the two connections different?	**Both connected Indiana producers with buyers beyond the state. The canal carried crops and supplies by boat, while the Michigan link is a supply chain in which Indiana steel can reach vehicle factories.**
3	How do Indiana and the Japan-based company Honda each benefit from Honda's Greensburg plant?	**Indiana gains local jobs. Honda gains a place to build vehicles for the North American market.**
4	How could a future change in what drivers buy affect Indiana's connection with Honda, and how might Indiana communities respond?	**Changing demand could alter the vehicles and parts the plant needs. Workers and suppliers could adapt to those changes.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Indiana should deepen its ties with Michigan over the next decade. Steel made near Lake Michigan can serve Michigan vehicle factories, so this connection supports sales for Indiana mills. I would fund training that helps Indiana workers make steel for newer types of vehicles. This choice carries a risk because falling demand from Michigan factories could still hurt mills. Investing less in the Japan connection could also mean missing opportunities tied to Honda's Greensburg plant.

Accept supported comparisons and reasonable proposals, including a recommendation to deepen ties with Japan. The five-sentence response should use two accurate passage details, propose an action, and explain a trade-off.