Changing Indiana Voices

Industry, immigration, and movements for change, 1870 to 1900

IS.4.10 "Summarize the impact of industrialization and immigration on social movements in Indiana from 1870-1900, including contributions of specific individuals and groups."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline conditions created by industrial growth or immigration, circle people and groups that took action, and draw arrows from each condition to a response it helped inspire.

Work, New Neighbors, and a Voice

1. During the late 1800s, Indiana's railroads connected farms, coal mines, and factories to distant markets. In Muncie, plentiful natural gas drew glassmakers, including the Ball brothers, who moved their glass business there in 1887. Such businesses needed large workforces. Migrants from rural Indiana and immigrants, including people from Germany and Ireland, moved toward the state's growing towns and cities. Many newcomers found wages, but long hours, injuries, and layoffs could threaten a family's income. Industrial growth therefore created both opportunity and a reason for workers to organize across trades and backgrounds. Not all workers had equal chances to join or lead.

2. In Indiana, chapters of the Knights of Labor brought workers from different trades together to demand fairer treatment. Immigrant workers joined labor organizing, although differences in language and skill could make unity difficult. Terre Haute railroad worker Eugene V. Debs helped found the American Railway Union in 1893. Unlike unions limited to one railroad job, it aimed to unite many kinds of railroad employees. During the 1894 Pullman strike, the union supported a boycott of trains carrying Pullman cars. Federal intervention and the union's defeat showed how hard it was for workers to challenge large companies, but Debs became a national voice for labor.

3. Industrialization also changed debates about women's place in public life. As cities grew, women worked for wages, taught, and organized to improve their communities, yet Indiana women could not vote in state elections. May Wright Sewall, an Indianapolis educator, helped establish the Indianapolis Equal Suffrage Society in 1878 and argued that women should have a political voice. As immigrant families joined city life, reformers debated who could take part in public decisions, although suffrage groups did not speak for every immigrant or working-class woman. Labor activists sought power at work; suffragists sought power at the ballot box. Both movements responded to unequal power in a changing economy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did industrial growth and immigration together affect labor organizing in Indiana?

2. How did the Knights of Labor and the American Railway Union respond to changes in work?

3. How did Eugene V. Debs contribute to a labor movement shaped by industrialization?

4. How did changes in Indiana's cities help shape the suffrage movement, and what did May Wright Sewall contribute?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence museum label explaining how industrialization and immigration shaped both labor organizing and women's suffrage in Indiana from 1870 to 1900. Include the contributions of Debs, Sewall, and at least one group, and explain how the movements' goals differed.

ANSWER KEY

Changing Indiana Voices

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline conditions created by industrial growth or immigration, circle people and groups that took action, and draw arrows from each condition to a response it helped inspire. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did industrial growth and immigration together affect labor organizing in Indiana?	**Growing businesses brought more workers, including immigrants, into towns and cities. Difficult working conditions encouraged organizing across trades and backgrounds, though differences in language and skill could make unity difficult.**
2	How did the Knights of Labor and the American Railway Union respond to changes in work?	**Indiana chapters of the Knights of Labor united workers from different trades to seek fairer treatment. The American Railway Union tried to unite employees across railroad jobs.**
3	How did Eugene V. Debs contribute to a labor movement shaped by industrialization?	**Debs helped found the American Railway Union to bring railroad employees together. During the Pullman strike, the union supported a boycott, and Debs became a national voice for labor.**
4	How did changes in Indiana's cities help shape the suffrage movement, and what did May Wright Sewall contribute?	**As cities grew, women took paid jobs and organized in public life while remaining unable to vote in state elections. Sewall helped establish the Indianapolis Equal Suffrage Society and argued for women's political voice.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Railroads and factories drew workers, including immigrants, to Indiana's growing towns and cities. Long hours and the risk of layoffs helped inspire labor organizing, though differences in language and skill could make cooperation difficult. Eugene V. Debs helped found the American Railway Union, which sought to unite railroad employees across jobs. In growing cities shaped partly by immigration, women worked and organized in public life, and May Wright Sewall helped establish the Indianapolis Equal Suffrage Society. Labor organizers sought more power at work, while suffragists sought the vote, even though suffrage groups did not represent every immigrant or working-class woman.

Accept summaries that connect economic and population changes to collective action rather than merely naming people or groups. For the museum label, look for accurate contributions by Debs, Sewall, and a group, plus a clear distinction between labor and suffrage goals.