Gary Grows

Workers, steel, and city growth in Indiana, 1897 to 1920

IS.4.11 "Explain the impact of "New" Immigration and the Great Migration on industrialization and urbanization in promoting economic growth in Indiana from 1897 to 1920."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline where each group of newcomers came from. Circle the work they did, then number two links between their work and Indiana's economic growth.

People Behind the Steel

1. In 1906, the United States Steel Corporation began building a steel plant and the city of Gary beside Lake Michigan. The plant needed thousands of workers to turn iron ore and coal into steel for rails, buildings, and machines. Between 1897 and 1920, many newcomers to Indiana came from southern and eastern Europe, part of the wave called "New" Immigration. Some took jobs in Gary's mills, while others worked in nearby industrial cities. Their labor helped mills keep furnaces running and fill orders. Steady production brought paychecks into town and gave railroads more steel to carry.

2. Beginning around 1916, the Great Migration also brought African Americans from the South to Indiana cities. Families moved to escape segregation and racial violence and to seek better-paying work. World War I increased demand for steel while slowing immigration from Europe, so northern factories sought workers. Some migrants found jobs in Gary's mills and other Indiana industries; women and men also worked in service jobs and built community organizations. Their work supported production, and their spending supported stores and landlords. This movement was migration within the United States, not immigration from another country.

3. As workers and families settled near factories, Gary's population rose. Shops sold food and clothing, builders put up homes, and streetcar lines connected neighborhoods to jobs. Those businesses hired workers, so factory growth created work beyond the mill gates. The city's growth also brought crowded housing and pressure on schools and streets. Black residents faced discrimination in jobs and housing, while some immigrants faced hostility over language and origin. Growth did not benefit everyone equally. Still, the linked rise of industrial work, city services, and local spending helped Indiana's economy expand through 1920.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did New Immigration help Gary's steel industry grow, and how did that work affect railroads?

2. How did the Great Migration support both industrial production and city businesses in Indiana?

3. Explain how factory growth in Gary created jobs beyond the mills.

4. Why did Indiana's economic growth through 1920 not benefit everyone equally?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short proposal to Gary's leaders in 1919. Explain how both New Immigration and the Great Migration contributed to economic growth, then propose one specific response to a problem caused by city growth.

Gary Grows

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline where each group of newcomers came from. Circle the work they did, then number two links between their work and Indiana's economic growth. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did New Immigration help Gary's steel industry grow, and how did that work affect railroads?	**Immigrants worked in mills, helping them keep furnaces running and fill orders. The mills produced steel for rails and gave railroads more steel to carry.**
2	How did the Great Migration support both industrial production and city businesses in Indiana?	**Some migrants worked in mills and other industries, supporting production. Their spending also supported stores and landlords.**
3	Explain how factory growth in Gary created jobs beyond the mills.	**Factory work drew workers and families to Gary. As the city grew, shops, home builders, and other businesses needed workers.**
4	Why did Indiana's economic growth through 1920 not benefit everyone equally?	**Growth brought crowded housing and pressure on city services. Black residents faced discrimination in jobs and housing, and some immigrants faced hostility.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Gary should add affordable housing near reliable streetcar routes as its mills expand. Immigrants from southern and eastern Europe and Black migrants from the South both fill jobs that keep steel production moving. Their paychecks also bring customers to neighborhood shops, which can hire more workers. But crowded housing can make it harder for workers to stay near their jobs. Building more homes would reduce that pressure, and fair access to those homes would help Black families share in the city's growth.

Accept other passage-supported links from newcomers' work to industrial output, city jobs, or local spending. Proposals should address a problem in the passage and explain how the proposed action could help.