Who Helped Indiana Grow?

Trace how organizations expanded economic opportunities.

IS.4.2 "Identify important organizations of economic growth in Indiana's history."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each named organization in the passage, then circle a phrase that shows how it could help Indiana's economy.

From State Fairs to New Employers

1 In the 1850s, a farmer near Indianapolis could bring a prize animal to a new state fair, while a quarry owner could ship stone by rail. Both opportunities depended on organizations, groups that coordinated people, money, or services. The Indiana State Board of Agriculture, organized in 1851, established the first Indiana State Fair in 1852. Its fairs helped farmers exchange ideas and find buyers. The Monon Railroad, which developed from a line chartered in 1847, linked parts of Indiana to larger markets. It transported products including southern Indiana limestone, allowing businesses to sell beyond their immediate communities.

2 By the early twentieth century, farmers also needed a voice in decisions about prices, roads, and laws. The Indiana Farm Bureau, founded in 1919, organized farm families to represent their interests and share information. Another organization, Purdue University, had opened in 1874 as Indiana's land-grant university. Under a federal law passed in 1914, Purdue Extension brought research on crops, livestock, and home economics into communities across the state. The Farm Bureau focused on collective action, while Extension focused on practical education. Better information could help farms produce more efficiently, but it could not control weather or market prices.

3 Today, business recruitment is another approach to growth. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation, created in 2005, works with businesses considering locations or expansions in the state. It offers information and coordinates state incentives intended to attract investment and jobs. Its role differs from the State Board of Agriculture's fair, the Farm Bureau's advocacy, and Purdue Extension's education. None of these organizations grew Indiana's economy alone. Rail connections, workers, natural resources, and demand for products also mattered. To identify an organization's importance, ask what it organized, whom it served, and how its work could change economic opportunities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which organization established the first Indiana State Fair, and how could its fairs help farmers?

2. Which organization connected parts of Indiana to larger markets by rail? Name one product it transported.

3. Which two organizations helped farmers through different methods in the early twentieth century? Explain the difference.

4. Which organization works to attract business investment and jobs today? What does it coordinate?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write five sentences advising a town with farms and an empty factory. Choose two organizations from different periods in the passage, link each organization's historical method to a different action the town could try today, and explain one limit of your plan.

ANSWER KEY

Who Helped Indiana Grow?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each named organization in the passage, then circle a phrase that shows how it could help Indiana's economy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which organization established the first Indiana State Fair, and how could its fairs help farmers?	**The Indiana State Board of Agriculture established the fair. Its fairs helped farmers exchange ideas and find buyers.**
2	Which organization connected parts of Indiana to larger markets by rail? Name one product it transported.	**The Monon Railroad connected those markets and transported southern Indiana limestone.**
3	Which two organizations helped farmers through different methods in the early twentieth century? Explain the difference.	**The Indiana Farm Bureau organized farm families to represent their interests, while Purdue Extension brought practical research into communities.**
4	Which organization works to attract business investment and jobs today? What does it coordinate?	**The Indiana Economic Development Corporation works to attract investment and jobs. It coordinates state incentives.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town should borrow the Indiana State Board of Agriculture's idea of bringing farmers together at a fair. A local market day could help farms meet buyers and share ideas. We should also borrow the Indiana Economic Development Corporation's approach to business recruitment. Town leaders could show prospective employers the empty factory and provide information about the site. Neither the market day nor the outreach guarantees sales or jobs, because businesses still need customers and workers.

Accept historically accurate descriptions of each organization's role. For Part 3, look for two organizations from different periods, two distinct local actions linked to their methods, and a realistic limit.