When Factories Change

Trace how industry shaped two Indiana cities.

IS.4.7 "Examine the rise and decline of industrial cities in Indiana."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that explain industrial growth, circle one cause of decline in each city, and number two effects of lost industrial jobs on people or businesses.

Two Cities, Different Paths

1 In 1906, U.S. Steel began building a vast mill and a new city at the southern tip of Lake Michigan. Gary offered lake shipping, railroad connections, and land near Chicago's markets. Iron ore could arrive by water, while trains carried finished steel to buyers. Mill jobs drew workers from other parts of the United States and from abroad. As families settled, stores, schools, and neighborhoods grew around the plant. Yet the city's fortunes became closely tied to one industry: when steel orders rose, paychecks flowed through local businesses; when orders fell, many households felt the loss.

2 South Bend followed a different industrial path. Studebaker made wagons there before turning to automobiles in the early twentieth century. Its factories supported machinists and assembly workers, and their wages helped sustain nearby shops. But making cars required costly changes in equipment and design, while larger competitors sold vehicles on a scale Studebaker struggled to match. Studebaker ended car production in South Bend in 1963. The shutdown erased factory jobs and reduced spending at other businesses. Some workers found new work, but a factory closing could also leave empty buildings and a smaller base of local taxpayers.

3 Gary's mills did not close in the same way. Steelmaking continued, but automation let companies produce steel with fewer workers, and competition from newer mills and imported steel put pressure on older operations. As steel employment shrank, many residents left, and fewer customers supported local stores. A smaller tax base made it harder for the city to pay for services and address vacant properties. Gary and South Bend show that industrial decline can follow different paths: a major plant can shut down, or an industry can keep producing while providing far fewer jobs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Gary's location help its steel industry grow, and how did mill jobs change the city?

2. How did Studebaker's struggle to compete affect South Bend businesses beyond the factory?

3. Why could Gary keep making steel while losing steel jobs? Explain two pressures described in the passage.

4. How did industrial decline begin differently in Gary and South Bend, and what effect did both cities' local businesses face?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose Gary or South Bend. Write a five- or six-sentence memo proposing two different actions the city could take after industrial jobs decline. Use evidence from the passage to explain what problem each action addresses, and identify one tradeoff.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · IS.4.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that explain industrial growth, circle one cause of decline in each city, and number two effects of lost industrial jobs on people or businesses. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Gary's location help its steel industry grow, and how did mill jobs change the city?	**Lake shipping brought iron ore, and railroads carried steel to buyers near Chicago. Mill jobs attracted workers, supporting new neighborhoods, stores, and schools.**
2	How did Studebaker's struggle to compete affect South Bend businesses beyond the factory?	**Studebaker ended car production in South Bend, eliminating factory jobs. Workers had less to spend at nearby businesses.**
3	Why could Gary keep making steel while losing steel jobs? Explain two pressures described in the passage.	**Automation allowed steel production with fewer workers. Competition from newer mills and imported steel also pressured older operations.**
4	How did industrial decline begin differently in Gary and South Bend, and what effect did both cities' local businesses face?	**Studebaker stopped making cars in South Bend, while Gary continued making steel with fewer workers. Both cities' local businesses lost customers or spending.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would focus on South Bend after Studebaker stopped making cars there. First, the city could partner with local employers to train former assembly workers for different jobs, since the factory shutdown erased paychecks. Second, it could help small businesses move into unused factory space, bringing customers and activity back to an area with empty buildings. These actions address both lost work and vacant property instead of trying to reopen the same car plant. Training and building repairs would cost money at a time when fewer taxpayers could help pay for them.

Accept other feasible actions if the student connects each to a distinct effect described in the passage. The tradeoff should follow logically from the proposed actions or the city's economic conditions.