From Village to Factory

How industrialization changed the groups people relied on

S.6.5 "Explain how the importance of primary and secondary groups have changed over time, particularly in relation to pre-industrial and industrial society."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details showing how personal ties shaped village life, circle two details showing how organized groups shaped city work, and number one detail showing that the two kinds of groups can overlap.

Who Helps Make the Bread?

1. Picture a village baker before large factories and rail networks. Her household shares a kitchen, income, and daily care. Relatives and neighbors know her across many parts of life, not only through a single job. Sociologists call close, lasting circles built on personal ties primary groups. The baker may also belong to a craft guild that sets training rules and protects members' trade. That group has a specific purpose, a feature of secondary groups, though its members may know one another well. In this village, family and familiar neighbors often organize both work and support.

2. Now picture bread made for sale in a fast-growing industrial city. Machines, paid factory jobs, and rail transport allow workers to produce and move goods beyond their own neighborhood. A worker may leave relatives behind and rent a room among strangers. At the bakery plant, supervisors assign shifts and wages; workers depend on one another to meet production goals without knowing everyone's home life. Such organized, task-focused connections are typical of secondary groups. A worker may also join a labor union to bargain over pay. Compared with the village baker, the city worker relies more on organizations for employment and shared goals.

3. The shift did not erase primary groups. A city worker might still seek comfort from family, care for a child, or form a close friendship with a coworker. Nor was every village relationship deeply personal: trading with an unfamiliar merchant could focus mainly on a sale. Industrialization changed the balance, not the existence, of the two kinds of groups. As work and services moved into larger organizations, secondary groups became more important for coordinating daily life. Primary groups remained important for belonging and emotional support, even when relatives lived far apart and could not share each workday.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might the village baker rely more on primary groups during work than the city worker? Use one detail about each worker.

2. How did changes in production and transportation make secondary groups more important to the city worker?

3. How does the village baker's craft guild show that secondary groups did not begin with industrialization?

4. What does a city worker's close friendship with a coworker show about the place of primary groups in industrial society?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a town where families once harvested and sold apples together, but many residents now work at a large package-sorting center. In four or five sentences, explain how the importance of primary and secondary groups might change for one resident, and name one need a primary group could still meet.

ANSWER KEY

From Village to Factory

HIGH SCHOOL · S.6.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details showing how personal ties shaped village life, circle two details showing how organized groups shaped city work, and number one detail showing that the two kinds of groups can overlap. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might the village baker rely more on primary groups during work than the city worker? Use one detail about each worker.	**The village baker shares work and daily life with family and familiar neighbors. The city worker depends on supervisors and coworkers in an organized plant.**
2	How did changes in production and transportation make secondary groups more important to the city worker?	**Machines and rail transport helped move production beyond the neighborhood. The worker therefore depended on the plant's assigned roles and shared goals to produce bread.**
3	How does the village baker's craft guild show that secondary groups did not begin with industrialization?	**The pre-industrial guild had specific purposes, including setting training rules and protecting members' trade, which are features of a secondary group.**
4	What does a city worker's close friendship with a coworker show about the place of primary groups in industrial society?	**Primary groups remained important. Close personal ties could form even among people who met through an industrial workplace.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before the change, Mara worked with relatives in the orchard, so close family ties shaped both her work and her sense of belonging. At the sorting center, she depends on assigned teams and managers to move packages, making task-focused secondary groups more important to her work. She might also join a workers' association to address schedules. Her family still offers comfort after a difficult shift, even though they no longer work together.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons that distinguish close personal ties from organized, task-focused ties. For Part 3, look for a plausible change in which groups coordinate work and a continuing role for primary groups.