

War Changes Home

Trace how wartime mobilization changed work, rights, and daily life.

11.8b "United States entry into World War II had a significant impact on American society."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline an economic change. Circle contributions by two groups. Mark evidence of discrimination or loss of rights.

Mobilizing a Changing Nation

- ① World War II mobilization transformed employment. Federal contracts expanded production of aircraft, ships, weapons, and supplies. Wartime spending and military service helped reduce unemployment sharply. Families moved to defense centers, changing communities. These opportunities did not benefit everyone equally: shortages, discrimination, and unequal pay shaped workers' experiences.
- ② Women entered industrial jobs and military service but faced unequal pay and pressure to leave jobs after the war. Black workers and service members encountered discriminatory hiring and segregated units. In 1941, A. Philip Randolph's threatened March on Washington helped pressure Roosevelt to issue Executive Order 8802 against discrimination in defense employment. Organizers then canceled the march. Mexican workers contributed through the Bracero Program beginning in 1942, and Native service members included Navajo Code Talkers. Contributions did not eliminate unequal treatment.
- ③ After Pearl Harbor, racism and claims of military necessity fueled the forced removal of people of Japanese ancestry. Executive Order 9066 authorized exclusion zones used to remove and incarcerate about 120,000 people, most U.S. citizens. Families lost liberty and property without individual proof of disloyalty. *Korematsu v. United States* (1944) upheld a conviction for violating an exclusion order, not a finding of proven military necessity for every confinement. Japanese American soldiers, including the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, served while many families remained incarcerated. Wartime unity coexisted with severe violations of rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did wartime production affect unemployment, according to the first paragraph?

2 Identify one way women contributed to the war effort and one unfair condition they experienced.

3 What led to Executive Order 8802, and what did the order do?

4 Give one contribution by Japanese Americans during the war and one example of unequal treatment they experienced.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In four sentences, explain wartime social change using an economic effect, a contribution by one group, and an example of inequality.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline an economic change. Circle contributions by two groups. Mark evidence of discrimination or loss of rights. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did wartime production affect unemployment, according to the first paragraph?	Federal contracts expanded defense production and hiring. Wartime spending and military service helped reduce unemployment sharply.
2	Identify one way women contributed to the war effort and one unfair condition they experienced.	Women took industrial jobs or served in uniform, but they were often paid less than men and expected to leave work after the war.
3	What led to Executive Order 8802, and what did the order do?	Randolph's threatened march helped pressure Roosevelt to prohibit discrimination in defense employment. Organizers canceled the march after the order.
4	Give one contribution by Japanese Americans during the war and one example of unequal treatment they experienced.	Japanese American soldiers served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. People of Japanese ancestry were removed and incarcerated under exclusion policies, and the Supreme Court upheld Korematsu's conviction in 1944.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mobilization expanded defense hiring and sharply reduced unemployment. Women contributed in factories and military service while facing unequal treatment. Japanese American soldiers served even as many families were forcibly removed and incarcerated. Wartime participation therefore expanded alongside discrimination and loss of rights.

Accept equivalent evidence-based descriptions of wartime economic change, expanded participation, and discrimination. For the final paragraph, require all three requested categories and a clear explanation of how the evidence shows social change.