Ideas That Grew

Three lives, three ways to help a nation grow

2.C.4.8 "Use biographies of American inventors and entrepreneurs, explaining how their ideas and work helped the nation grow (e.g., George Washington Carver, John Deere, Robert Fulton, Madam C.J. Walker, Henry Ford)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline what each person did. Circle the words that show how the work helped farms or jobs grow.

Work That Made a Difference

1. George Washington Carver was a scientist who taught farmers. Many farmers grew cotton year after year, which could wear out the soil. Carver showed them how to grow crops such as peanuts to help the soil. Healthier soil helped farmers keep growing food.

2. John Deere was a blacksmith who worked with metal. Farmers on the prairie had trouble with heavy, sticky soil. Deere made a steel plow that cut through it more easily. His plow helped farmers plant crops on more land.

3. Madam C. J. Walker built a business making hair products for Black women. She sold her products and taught other women to sell them, too. These women could earn money. Her business grew and created jobs in many places.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Carver's teaching help farmers keep growing food?

2. How did Deere's plow help farmers grow more crops?

3. How did Walker's business help jobs grow?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Pick two people from the passage. Write three sentences: tell how each person's work helped the nation grow, then tell one way their work was alike or different.

ANSWER KEY

Ideas That Grew

GRADE 2 · 2.C.4.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline what each person did. Circle the words that show how the work helped farms or jobs grow. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Carver's teaching help farmers keep growing food?	**He taught farmers to grow crops such as peanuts to help the soil, so they could keep growing food.**
2	How did Deere's plow help farmers grow more crops?	**It cut through sticky soil more easily, helping farmers plant crops on more land.**
3	How did Walker's business help jobs grow?	**She taught other women to sell her hair products, and her growing business created jobs in many places.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Carver taught farmers to grow peanuts so their soil could stay healthy and they could keep growing food. Deere made a steel plow that helped farmers plant crops on more land. Both helped farms grow crops, but they used different ideas.

Accept answers that connect each person's work to healthier farmland, more land planted, or jobs for women, as supported by the passage.