Cotton Across Oceans

Banking, factories, and trade in the 1870s

AWH.C.12.6.A "Identify major developments in banking, manufacturing at scale, and international trade."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two banking developments, circle two changes that increased cloth production, and number two developments that helped goods move between countries. Use your marks to identify how each kind of change shaped the cotton trade.

From Cotton to Cloth to Market

(1) In the 1870s, a cotton merchant in Manchester could arrange a shipment without carrying a trunk of coins. Banks held deposits and made loans that helped merchants buy cotton before they sold cloth. A bill of exchange let a seller claim payment from a buyer at an agreed later date; a bank could discount the bill, paying the seller sooner for a fee. This system did not remove risk. If buyers failed to pay, merchants and banks could lose money. Still, growing banking networks helped businesses move capital and credit across long distances.

(2) Inside Manchester-area textile mills, steam engines powered machines that spun yarn and wove cloth. Instead of making one piece at a time in a small workshop, factory owners brought many workers and machines together under one roof. Standardized tasks and long production runs increased the amount of cloth a mill could produce. Factory production also demanded large supplies of raw cotton and reliable buyers for finished cloth. Workers faced strict schedules and dangerous equipment, while owners needed money for buildings, machines, fuel, and wages. Large-scale manufacturing thus depended on both labor and access to credit.

(3) Trade linked the mill to ports far beyond Britain. Cotton grown in India and elsewhere traveled to British factories; finished British cloth was then sold in overseas markets, including India. Railways moved cotton from inland farms toward ports, and steamships carried cargo across seas on more predictable schedules than sailing ships. After the Suez Canal opened in 1869, ships traveling between Europe and India could take a shorter sea route. These links expanded international trade, but the benefits were uneven: British manufactured cloth competed with cloth made by Indian producers in a colonial economy shaped by British rule.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Identify two banking developments in the passage. How did each help a merchant?

2. Identify two changes in manufacturing that helped mills produce more cloth.

3. What need of a large textile mill could bank loans help meet? Use details from both the banking and manufacturing paragraphs.

4. Identify two changes to sea travel that supported trade between Europe and India. How did each help?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you advise a new cotton-cloth business in the 1870s. In 4 to 5 sentences, describe a plan to finance production, make cloth at scale, and reach customers in another country using developments from the passage. Explain how two developments work together, and name one risk or unequal effect.

ANSWER KEY

Cotton Across Oceans

HIGH SCHOOL · AWH.C.12.6.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two banking developments, circle two changes that increased cloth production, and number two developments that helped goods move between countries. Use your marks to identify how each kind of change shaped the cotton trade. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify two banking developments in the passage. How did each help a merchant?	**Bank loans helped merchants buy cotton before selling cloth. Banks also discounted bills of exchange, paying sellers sooner for a fee.**
2	Identify two changes in manufacturing that helped mills produce more cloth.	**Steam-powered machines spun and wove cloth, while standardized tasks and long production runs increased output.**
3	What need of a large textile mill could bank loans help meet? Use details from both the banking and manufacturing paragraphs.	**A mill needed money for expenses such as machines, fuel, and wages. A bank loan could provide funds before the mill sold its cloth.**
4	Identify two changes to sea travel that supported trade between Europe and India. How did each help?	**Steamships carried cargo on more predictable schedules than sailing ships. The Suez Canal gave ships a shorter sea route between Europe and India.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would seek a bank loan to buy cotton and pay workers before our cloth is sold. In a mill, steam-powered machines and long production runs would help us make enough cloth for overseas buyers. I would send the finished cloth by steamship to customers in India. Producing a large supply would make overseas sales possible, while the loan would cover costs until those customers paid. Our cloth could also compete with cloth made by Indian producers.

Accept other accurately identified developments and effects stated in the passage. For the open task, look for a workable connection among banking, manufacturing at scale, and international trade, plus a passage-supported risk or unequal effect.