Where Mills Took Root

How several conditions helped industry begin in England

MWH.C.5.1.A "Explain how the Industrial Revolution began in England, including its access to natural resources and capital, entrepreneurial culture, labor supply, and political stability."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail for each of four conditions: natural resources, capital and entrepreneurs, labor, and political stability. Circle the words that show how each condition helped factories start or grow.

Why England's Factories Grew

1. In the late 1700s, a merchant in England could imagine turning raw cotton into cloth faster than hand spinners could. England's Industrial Revolution grew from conditions that made such plans possible, not from one lucky invention. Coal deposits supplied fuel for steam engines, and iron deposits provided metal for machines and tools. Rivers powered some early textile mills, while canals and ports helped move coal, cotton, and finished cloth. Cotton was imported, much of it produced by enslaved labor in the Americas. These connections gave manufacturers materials and ways to reach buyers beyond their own towns.

2. A machine could not build a factory by itself. British merchants and landowners had accumulated capital, money they could invest, through farming, trade, and empire, including profits tied to slavery. Some used this money to purchase machines and buildings or to lend to manufacturers. Entrepreneurs took the risk of organizing workers, testing new processes, and selling cloth in growing markets. A failed venture could cost them their investment, but a successful one could earn profits to expand production. Access to both funds and people willing to invest them helped turn useful inventions into operating businesses.

3. Factories also needed workers and predictable rules. Population growth increased the number of people seeking work. Changes in farming and land use, including enclosure, pushed some rural families to look for paid jobs in towns, though people moved for many reasons. England's government was relatively stable at home during this period, despite wars abroad and deep inequality. Parliament protected property and supported trade, making long-term investments less risky for some owners. Workers did not share those advantages equally. Together, available labor and a more predictable setting helped investors keep mills running and plan for future growth.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did natural resources and transportation routes work together to help manufacturers produce and sell cloth?

2. Why did manufacturers need both capital and entrepreneurs to turn inventions into businesses?

3. How did population growth and changes in farming help supply factories with labor?

4. How could England's relative political stability encourage investment, and who did not share its advantages equally?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Two English towns want a textile mill: Port Town has investors, workers, and a river but no nearby coal or iron; Mine Town has coal and iron but few workers or investors. Choose a town and, in one paragraph, defend your choice using at least three conditions from the passage and explaining how you would handle one disadvantage.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.5.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail for each of four conditions: natural resources, capital and entrepreneurs, labor, and political stability. Circle the words that show how each condition helped factories start or grow. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did natural resources and transportation routes work together to help manufacturers produce and sell cloth?	**Coal fueled steam engines, iron supplied metal for machines and tools, and rivers powered some early mills. Canals and ports moved materials to manufacturers and cloth to buyers.**
2	Why did manufacturers need both capital and entrepreneurs to turn inventions into businesses?	**Capital paid for machines and buildings. Entrepreneurs took risks by organizing workers, trying processes, and selling cloth.**
3	How did population growth and changes in farming help supply factories with labor?	**Population growth increased the number of people seeking work, while farming and land-use changes led some rural families to seek paid jobs in towns.**
4	How could England's relative political stability encourage investment, and who did not share its advantages equally?	**Predictable conditions, property protection, and support for trade made long-term investment less risky for some owners. Workers did not share those advantages equally.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would choose Port Town because investors could pay for machines and buildings, and its workers could operate the mill. The river could power an early mill even without nearby coal. The port could bring in coal and iron when the business needed them, although shipping would add costs. England's relatively stable government would also make a long-term investment less risky. Mine Town's resources would be useful, but its lack of workers and investors could make it harder to open a mill.

Accept either town if the response explains how at least three conditions affect the choice and gives a plausible way to address one disadvantage. Students may note that access to resources through transportation is different from having deposits nearby.