Why England First?

Trace the causes and consequences of industrialization.

MWH.C.5.1 "Examine the causes and characteristics of the Industrial Revolution. Explain how the Industrial Revolution began in England, including its access to natural resources and capital, entrepreneurial culture, labor supply..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline England's starting advantages, number three changes that helped factories expand, and circle two effects on people's lives.

From Farms to Factories

1. In eighteenth-century England, a cloth maker could find several advantages close together. Coal supplied fuel, and iron ore supplied metal for machines and rails. Merchants had capital, or money to invest, and some were willing to risk it on new mills. Laws generally protected property, while relatively stable government made long-term investments less risky. An entrepreneurial culture rewarded people who tested new business ideas. Together, these conditions made England a favorable place to start industrial production.

2. Changes on farms helped supply workers and customers. Improved crop rotation and selective breeding raised food output, supporting population growth. As some farms needed fewer workers, people sought wages in towns. Coal-powered steam engines could run pumps and, later, factory machines without depending on a fast river. Spinning machines turned cotton into thread much faster than hand spinning. Canals and later railways moved coal, raw cotton, and finished cloth more cheaply. Farming changes alone could not produce factories without power, machines, investment, and transport.

3. Factory towns grew as families moved from rural areas to find paid work. In crowded neighborhoods, poor workers often faced dirty water, cramped housing, and long hours; children also worked in some mills. At the same time, factory owners, managers, and shopkeepers expanded the middle class. More reliable food supplies and, over time, improvements in public health helped many people live longer, though gains were uneven. Industrialization changed where people lived and how they earned money, but its benefits and costs were not shared equally.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did both capital and political stability matter to English mill builders?

2. How did farm improvements support industrialization, and why were they not enough on their own?

3. How did steam power and transport each help factories expand?

4. Explain one benefit and one cost of industrialization for different groups.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town is deciding whether to support a new cotton mill. Write one paragraph taking a position, using two reasons a mill could succeed and weighing one likely benefit against one likely cost for residents.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.5.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline England's starting advantages, number three changes that helped factories expand, and circle two effects on people's lives. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did both capital and political stability matter to English mill builders?	**Capital paid for new mills. Political stability and property protections made long-term investments less risky.**
2	How did farm improvements support industrialization, and why were they not enough on their own?	**More food supported population growth, and fewer farm workers were needed, so some sought town jobs. Factories also needed power, machines, investment, and transport.**
3	How did steam power and transport each help factories expand?	**Steam engines powered factory machines without a fast river. Canals and railways moved materials and finished goods more cheaply.**
4	Explain one benefit and one cost of industrialization for different groups.	**Factory owners, managers, and shopkeepers gained middle-class opportunities, while poor workers often faced cramped housing and long hours.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would support the mill only if the town also planned for workers' housing and clean water. Investors could pay to build it, and steam power could run its machines without a fast river. The mill could offer paid work to families moving from farms. Yet if many workers arrived quickly, poor families might crowd into unhealthy homes. The town should prepare for that cost before welcoming the new jobs.

Accept other passage-supported causes and consequences. For the open task, look for a clear position that weighs a benefit against a cost rather than listing facts.