Mills Change Manchester

Trace the causes and consequences of industrialization.

MWH.C.5 "Analyze the massive social, economic, and cultural change brought about by the Industrial Revolution. Examine the causes and characteristics of the Industrial Revolution. Explain how the Industrial Revolution began in England..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three conditions that helped mills develop. Circle two changes mills brought to Manchester, then number one response to those changes.

How a Mill Town Grew

1. In the late 1700s, a cotton mill owner in northern England could draw on several advantages. Improved farming produced more food while requiring fewer workers, helping feed a growing population and pushing some people toward towns. Coal and iron lay near industrial districts, and profits from trade provided money to build mills. Britain's relatively stable government protected property and encouraged investment. Business owners willing to take risks combined these conditions, but none alone could have created an industrial economy.

2. Consider Manchester, where cotton mills multiplied during the nineteenth century. Steam engines powered machines that spun cotton faster than hand spinners could; coal fueled the engines. Canals and then railways carried fuel and finished cloth more cheaply across long distances. Mills hired migrants from the countryside, swelling the town. Some merchants and factory owners joined a growing middle class, while many workers lived in crowded housing with poor sanitation and faced long, dangerous shifts.

3. Industrial growth brought a political struggle over who should share its benefits. Workers organized trade unions to demand higher pay and safer workplaces, even when employers opposed them. Parliament passed laws that limited children's factory work, though enforcement was uneven. Reformers disagreed about how far government should intervene: some favored legal protections, while others feared that too many rules would restrict business. Manchester's mills therefore created wealth and jobs, but also pressures that changed public policy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did improved farming help mills grow in England?

2. How did steam engines and improved transportation work together to support Manchester's mills?

3. How did the growth of mills affect factory owners and workers differently?

4. What problem did laws limiting children's factory work address, and why might the laws have had limited effects?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine that coal was much harder to obtain near Manchester. In three or four sentences, predict how this might change the mills and workers' lives. Use one passage detail about how mills grew and one about their social effects.

ANSWER KEY

Mills Change Manchester

HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three conditions that helped mills develop. Circle two changes mills brought to Manchester, then number one response to those changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did improved farming help mills grow in England?	**It produced more food for a growing population and required fewer farm workers, some of whom moved toward towns.**
2	How did steam engines and improved transportation work together to support Manchester's mills?	**Coal-fueled steam engines powered faster cotton-spinning machines, while canals and railways moved fuel and finished cloth more cheaply.**
3	How did the growth of mills affect factory owners and workers differently?	**Some factory owners joined a growing middle class, while many workers faced crowded housing, poor sanitation, and long, dangerous shifts.**
4	What problem did laws limiting children's factory work address, and why might the laws have had limited effects?	**They addressed children's factory work, but uneven enforcement limited their effects.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Without nearby coal, fueling the steam engines that powered spinning machines would be harder and more costly. Manchester's mills might grow more slowly and hire fewer people from the countryside. With fewer migrants arriving, fewer workers might have to live in crowded housing. Some families would also have fewer chances to earn wages in the mills.

Accept other plausible predictions that connect scarce coal to mill growth and at least one social effect described in the passage. Students need not argue that industrialization would stop.