Beyond the Wells

How oil reshaped work and communities in Oklahoma

OKH.C.6.1 "Examine how the development of the oil industry affected major sectors of employment and the development of communities, including the role of entrepreneurs (e.g., Frank Phillips, E.W. Marland…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three links between oil activity and jobs outside drilling, circle the communities that grew or changed, and number one example of an entrepreneur's influence in each of the last two paragraphs.

An Oil Boom's Wider Reach

1. In 1905, a major oil strike at Glenn Pool, south of Tulsa, drew workers and investors to northeastern Oklahoma. A well did not create jobs only for drillers. Crews needed pipe, tools, and lumber; teamsters and railroad workers moved heavy equipment and oil. Refineries turned crude oil into products that could be sold, while clerks kept accounts and bankers supplied loans. As paychecks circulated, shops and boardinghouses found customers. The rush brought opportunity, but a community tied to one resource also faced risk when prices fell or a well ran dry.

2. Entrepreneurs shaped where those jobs took root. Frank Phillips founded Phillips Petroleum Company in Bartlesville in 1917. Its operations supported work in drilling, refining, and business offices, helping Bartlesville grow as an oil center. In Ponca City, E. W. Marland built an oil company that expanded refining and marketed gasoline. That business drew workers and supported services used by their families. These companies did not employ every resident, and their effects reached beyond company payrolls. A machinist fixing pumps or a grocer serving refinery workers could earn a living because oil activity had increased local demand.

3. Tulsa became known as the "Oil Capital of the World," even though many producing wells stood outside the city. Its offices, banks, and transportation links helped companies organize deals and move oil. Those activities created jobs for accountants, lenders, and railroad workers and helped neighborhoods and businesses expand. Thomas Gilcrease, a Muscogee entrepreneur who made money in oil, used his wealth to assemble a major collection of art and historical materials. The Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa shows another way oil earnings shaped a community: they could support cultural institutions, not just wells and factories. Yet growth depended in part on an unpredictable industry.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could the Glenn Pool oil strike create work for people who did not drill wells? Explain two links.

2. Compare how Phillips and Marland affected employment in their communities.

3. Why could Tulsa be called the "Oil Capital of the World" if many wells were outside the city?

4. How did Thomas Gilcrease's oil earnings affect Tulsa in a way different from creating oil-industry jobs?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A company proposes building a refinery near the fictional town of Cedar Bend. Write a recommendation to its town council that predicts effects on two kinds of employment and one community institution, weighs one risk, and uses one historical example from the passage to support your reasoning.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond the Wells

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.6.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three links between oil activity and jobs outside drilling, circle the communities that grew or changed, and number one example of an entrepreneur's influence in each of the last two paragraphs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could the Glenn Pool oil strike create work for people who did not drill wells? Explain two links.	**Oil crews needed supplies and transportation, creating work for suppliers, teamsters, and railroad workers. Workers also spent their pay at shops and boardinghouses.**
2	Compare how Phillips and Marland affected employment in their communities.	**Phillips Petroleum supported drilling, refining, and office work in Bartlesville. Marland's company expanded refining and gasoline sales in Ponca City, drawing workers and supporting local services.**
3	Why could Tulsa be called the "Oil Capital of the World" if many wells were outside the city?	**Tulsa's offices, banks, and transportation links helped companies arrange deals and move oil, creating jobs in the city.**
4	How did Thomas Gilcrease's oil earnings affect Tulsa in a way different from creating oil-industry jobs?	**He used oil wealth to collect art and historical materials, helping establish a cultural institution in Tulsa, the Gilcrease Museum.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend considering the refinery, but Cedar Bend should plan for changes in oil prices. The plant could hire refinery workers, and a local grocer might need more employees as workers and their families move to town. More residents could also increase demand for a public library. Ponca City offers a useful example: Marland's oil company expanded refining, drew workers, and supported services their families used. Cedar Bend should not assume these jobs will last forever. If oil prices fall, families and businesses that depend on refinery paychecks could struggle.

Accept other passage-supported employment links and community effects. For the open task, look for a reasoned recommendation that includes two kinds of work, a community institution, a risk, and a relevant historical example.