Oklahoma's Changing Economy

Trace how industries create opportunities and tradeoffs

OKH.C.8.2 "Analyze the impact of growth in various sectors of the state economy. Describe the value of agribusiness to the state economy, producing commodities, such as wheat and livestock, for the nation..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four sources of economic growth in the passage. Circle one effect or tradeoff linked to each source, then number the four pairs to show which ideas go together.

Jobs, Resources, and Change

1. At a wheat elevator near Enid, trucks bring grain that may feed people far beyond Oklahoma. Cattle ranches also supply national markets, while feed mills and meat processors add jobs to the value of farm products. But irrigation draws from groundwater, including the Ogallala Aquifer in Oklahoma's Panhandle. Pumping faster than water is replenished can threaten future harvests. Highways carry goods to other states, and the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System links Oklahoma ports to the Mississippi River and, through it, global shipping routes. These connections expand markets, but farms and ports still depend on reliable water.

2. An oil well in the Anadarko Basin can bring drilling jobs and tax revenue when prices are high. New drilling in the basin has fueled booms, but falling prices can lead to layoffs and weaker local budgets. Wind farms offer another source of electricity and lease income for landowners, although their output changes with the wind. Oklahoma's aviation and defense work adds a different kind of employment: Tinker Air Force Base maintains military aircraft, and Fort Sill trains soldiers. The FAA's Oklahoma City center trains air traffic controllers, while Norman's weather researchers improve forecasts that help communities prepare for severe storms.

3. Route 66 travelers stop at Oklahoma museums, while state parks attract visitors who spend money at nearby businesses. Tribal nations operate casinos and other enterprises that create jobs, fund Tribal services, and strengthen Tribal budgets. State and Tribal governments negotiate gaming compacts, and cross-deputization agreements let officers from different jurisdictions cooperate. Meanwhile, limited rural jobs have pushed some residents toward cities; others move from cities to suburbs for housing and space. Oklahoma City's MAPS projects used a voter-approved sales tax to improve downtown attractions and public spaces, drawing visitors and investment. Yet new development does not guarantee equal benefits for every neighborhood.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can growing more crops create both an economic benefit and a water problem for Oklahoma?

2. Why might aviation work and wind power make Oklahoma's economy less dependent on oil drilling?

3. How do transportation links and Route 66 create different economic opportunities?

4. How do Tribal enterprises and agreements with the state affect the economy and public services?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you advise an Oklahoma town where rural residents are leaving and groundwater is under pressure. In one paragraph, propose two actions involving different industries from the passage, and explain how they could support jobs while addressing a risk or limit.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.8.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four sources of economic growth in the passage. Circle one effect or tradeoff linked to each source, then number the four pairs to show which ideas go together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can growing more crops create both an economic benefit and a water problem for Oklahoma?	**Crops supply national markets and support processing jobs, but irrigation can drain groundwater faster than it is replenished, threatening future harvests.**
2	Why might aviation work and wind power make Oklahoma's economy less dependent on oil drilling?	**Oil price drops can cause layoffs and reduce local revenue. Aviation provides other jobs, while wind farms provide electricity and landowner income.**
3	How do transportation links and Route 66 create different economic opportunities?	**Highways and the navigation system help goods reach wider markets. Route 66 brings travelers whose spending supports museums and nearby businesses.**
4	How do Tribal enterprises and agreements with the state affect the economy and public services?	**Tribal enterprises create jobs and help fund Tribal services. Gaming compacts provide a framework for gaming, while cross-deputization agreements help officers cooperate.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would help farms adopt more efficient irrigation so they could keep growing crops while using less groundwater. I would also invite wind developers to consider land near the town, creating work beyond farming and lease income for landowners. Those opportunities might give residents more reasons to stay. Because wind output changes, the town should not depend on wind alone.

Accept other supported opportunity-and-tradeoff pairs in the marking task. For the open response, look for two distinct industries, a plausible link to local jobs, and a clear response to groundwater pressure or another stated limit.