Growth and Its Costs

Trace opportunity, hardship, and responses in the Gilded Age.

USH.C.2.1 "Evaluate the transformation of American society, economy, politics, and culture during the American Industrial Revolution. Explain how the United States was transformed from an agrarian to an increasingly industrial..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two economic opportunities, circle two problems, and number two attempts to address those problems. Use your marks to track who benefited from industrial growth and who pushed for change.

A Changing Nation

1. In the late 1800s, a farmer could ship grain farther by rail, but freight rates could swallow the profit. As more Americans moved to cities for factory jobs, farmers bought machines and grew crops for distant buyers rather than only local markets. Many joined the Grange to push for fairer railroad rates and greater political influence. Meanwhile, the Bessemer process made steel cheaper to produce, helping builders lay more tracks and erect larger urban buildings.

2. Industrial growth created fortunes and new jobs, but wealth did not spread evenly. Under laissez-faire policies, government generally left businesses to compete with limited regulation. John D. Rockefeller used Standard Oil's size to gain control over much of the oil industry, drawing criticism of its monopoly power. Andrew Carnegie's steel business grew with demand for buildings and railroads. In his *Gospel of Wealth*, Carnegie argued that the rich should use their fortunes to benefit society through philanthropy.

3. Factory workers often faced long hours and unsafe conditions, while crowded city neighborhoods struggled with poverty. Samuel Gompers helped organize skilled workers to demand better wages and hours. Yet after the 1894 Pullman Strike disrupted rail service, federal intervention against strikers showed how difficult collective action could be. Journalist Ida Tarbell exposed Standard Oil's unfair business tactics, adding pressure for regulation. The era's glittering wealth and hidden hardships earned it the name Gilded Age.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did railroads create both an opportunity and a problem for farmers, and how did farmers respond?

2. How did the Bessemer process help change the economy and cities?

3. How did Rockefeller's business practices and Carnegie's argument in *Gospel of Wealth* show two sides of industrial wealth?

4. How did Gompers and Tarbell respond to different problems of industrial growth? What does the Pullman Strike show about the limits of one response?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label about the Gilded Age. Explain an opportunity and a problem linked to industrial growth, compare how farmers and workers responded, and judge whether growth benefited everyone equally. Use at least three facts from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Growth and Its Costs

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two economic opportunities, circle two problems, and number two attempts to address those problems. Use your marks to track who benefited from industrial growth and who pushed for change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did railroads create both an opportunity and a problem for farmers, and how did farmers respond?	**Railroads let farmers sell grain to distant buyers, but freight rates reduced profits. Farmers joined the Grange to seek fairer rates.**
2	How did the Bessemer process help change the economy and cities?	**Cheaper steel helped expand railroads and made larger urban buildings possible.**
3	How did Rockefeller's business practices and Carnegie's argument in *Gospel of Wealth* show two sides of industrial wealth?	**Standard Oil's control of much of the oil industry raised concerns about monopoly power. Carnegie argued that wealthy people should use their fortunes to benefit society.**
4	How did Gompers and Tarbell respond to different problems of industrial growth? What does the Pullman Strike show about the limits of one response?	**Gompers organized workers for better wages and hours; Tarbell exposed unfair business tactics. Federal intervention against Pullman strikers showed that workers faced obstacles to collective action.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Cheaper steel helped railroads expand, giving farmers access to distant buyers. High freight rates cut into farmers' profits, so some joined the Grange to seek fairer rates. Factory workers faced long hours and unsafe conditions, while Gompers organized skilled workers to demand better wages and hours. Growth did not benefit everyone equally because business leaders built fortunes while many workers and people in crowded city neighborhoods faced hardship.

Accept other supported opportunities, problems, and responses from the passage. The museum label should make a judgment about unequal effects, not just list changes.