War Beyond Trenches

How World War I changed work and life at home

USH.C.3.2.E "Analyze the impact of the war on the home front including the use of propaganda, women's increased role in industry, the marshaling of industrial production, and the Great Migration."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one wartime action or change in each area: propaganda, industrial production, women's work, and the Great Migration; circle an effect of each, then give each linked pair the same number.

The Home Front at Work

1 When the United States entered World War I in 1917, winning battles depended partly on what happened far from the trenches. The federal government's Committee on Public Information distributed posters, films, and speeches urging Americans to buy Liberty Bonds and support the war. These messages presented bond purchases as patriotic acts, helping the government raise money for weapons and supplies. Yet propaganda also narrowed public debate: people who questioned the war could be portrayed as disloyal. Persuasion did not make shells by itself, but it helped generate the money and public backing needed to produce them.

2 Factories had to turn that support into material for soldiers. The War Industries Board coordinated purchases and set priorities for scarce materials, steering factories toward military orders. Automobile plants, for example, made military trucks, while other plants produced ammunition. With many men serving overseas, more women took paid industrial jobs, including work in munitions plants. Their wages offered new opportunities, and their labor helped keep production moving. Still, women often earned less than men doing similar work, and many were pushed out of industrial positions after the war. Wartime demand changed work without ending inequality.

3 Demand for workers also shaped where people lived. During the first wave of the Great Migration, hundreds of thousands of Black Americans left the South for northern cities, especially as wartime industry expanded. They sought higher wages and a chance to escape Jim Crow segregation and violence in the South. Rail travel carried many migrants to places such as Chicago, where factories needed workers and Black communities grew. But northern employers often assigned Black workers the lowest-paid jobs, and housing discrimination limited where families could live. The same war economy that opened jobs also exposed persistent barriers to equal opportunity.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did wartime propaganda help fund production, and what was one cost of its message?

2. How did the War Industries Board's actions change what factories produced?

3. How did industrial work expand opportunities for women while leaving inequality in place?

4. How did wartime industry affect the Great Migration, and what limits did Black migrants face in northern cities?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph judging whether World War I home-front changes created lasting equality. Connect at least three of these developments: propaganda, industrial coordination, women's industrial jobs, and the Great Migration; explain one benefit and one limit using evidence from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

War Beyond Trenches

HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.3.2.E

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one wartime action or change in each area: propaganda, industrial production, women's work, and the Great Migration; circle an effect of each, then give each linked pair the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did wartime propaganda help fund production, and what was one cost of its message?	**It encouraged people to buy Liberty Bonds, raising money for weapons and supplies. It also made people who questioned the war seem disloyal.**
2	How did the War Industries Board's actions change what factories produced?	**By coordinating purchases and prioritizing scarce materials, the board steered factories toward military orders, including trucks and ammunition.**
3	How did industrial work expand opportunities for women while leaving inequality in place?	**More women earned wages in industrial jobs and helped sustain production, but they often earned less than men and many lost those jobs after the war.**
4	How did wartime industry affect the Great Migration, and what limits did Black migrants face in northern cities?	**Growing factories needed workers and offered higher wages, drawing Black Americans north. There, many faced low-paid job assignments and housing discrimination.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Wartime change did not bring lasting equality, even though it opened important doors. The War Industries Board directed materials toward military production, helping factories meet wartime needs. As factories hired more women, paid industrial work gave some women new wages and responsibilities. Yet many earned less than men and lost those jobs after the war. Wartime factory demand also drew Black southerners to northern cities, where they sought better pay and freedom from Jim Crow segregation. Northern housing discrimination and low-paid job assignments, however, blocked equal opportunity. War could rapidly reshape jobs and neighborhoods, but its gains did not erase entrenched barriers.

Accept a different judgment if the paragraph connects at least three listed developments and supports a benefit and a limit with accurate passage evidence.