

Texas Trade Connections

Trace how moving goods and sharing information shape Texas business.

4.11.D “explain how developments in transportation and communication have influenced economic activities in Texas.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle transportation developments, underline communication developments, and number each sentence that tells how one changed Texas business or jobs.

Moving Goods, Sharing News

- ① During the late 1800s, railroads connected many Texas towns to distant markets. Ranchers could load cattle onto rail cars instead of driving herds for weeks. Farmers could ship cotton and other crops to buyers beyond their local area. Because travel was faster, sellers could reach more customers, and towns near railroad stops gained jobs in stores, warehouses, and shipping.
- ② Texas highways and ports later expanded trade. Trucks carry goods between farms, factories, stores, and airports. At ports such as Houston, ships bring in products and carry Texas goods to other countries. These transportation links help businesses move large amounts of goods. They also support jobs for drivers, dockworkers, mechanics, and people who pack or sell products.
- ③ Communication has changed business decisions, too. A rancher can use a phone or computer to learn market prices, contact a buyer, and arrange a delivery quickly. A small Texas shop can advertise online to customers far away. Fast communication helps buyers and sellers share information, make plans, and complete sales. Transportation moves goods, while communication helps people organize the movement and sale of those goods.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did railroads change the way Texas ranchers could get cattle to buyers?

2 Why did towns near railroad stops gain jobs?

3 How do Texas ports influence economic activities? Name one way goods move and one job ports support.

4 How can a phone or computer help a rancher make a sale?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a Texas business that sells a product. Write exactly three sentences explaining how one transportation development and one communication development help the business sell its product.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle transportation developments, underline communication developments, and number each sentence that tells how one changed Texas business or jobs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did railroads change the way Texas ranchers could get cattle to buyers?	Ranchers could load cattle onto rail cars instead of driving herds for weeks.
2	Why did towns near railroad stops gain jobs?	Faster travel helped sellers reach more customers, and railroad towns needed workers in stores, warehouses, and shipping.
3	How do Texas ports influence economic activities? Name one way goods move and one job ports support.	Ships bring in products and carry Texas goods to other countries. Ports support jobs such as dockworkers, drivers, mechanics, packers, or sellers.
4	How can a phone or computer help a rancher make a sale?	A rancher can learn market prices, contact a buyer, and arrange a delivery quickly.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A Texas pecan farm uses trucks to take pecans to a grocery warehouse. This transportation lets the farm sell its pecans in more stores. The farmer uses a phone to tell the warehouse when the truck will arrive, which helps workers prepare for the delivery.

Accept any reasonable Texas business and product. The response should name one transportation development and one communication development and clearly explain how each supports selling, moving, or organizing goods.