

Tracks Change Texas

Trace how railroads changed Texas towns and industries.

4.4.C “explain the effects of the railroad industry on life in Texas, including changes to cities and major industries; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that tells how railroads changed Texas towns or cities. Circle each phrase that tells how railroads changed an industry, so you can trace the railroad's effects.

Railroads Reshape Texas

- ① During the late 1800s, railroads spread across Texas. A train could carry people, mail, and heavy goods much faster than a wagon. Towns with railroad depots gained new stores, hotels, and jobs for railroad workers. Some towns grew into cities because travelers and businesses stopped there. Temple and Abilene were founded beside railroad lines. Towns far from the tracks sometimes lost customers and grew more slowly.
- ② Railroads changed cattle ranching. Before many tracks were built, cowboys drove cattle long distances to markets. Railroad cars let ranchers send cattle to buyers more quickly and with fewer long trail drives. Cotton farmers could ship bales to ports and textile mills. Railroads also carried lumber from East Texas forests to sawmills and then to growing towns, helping the lumber industry expand.
- ③ Railroads later helped the oil industry, too. After oil was found near Beaumont in 1901, trains brought drilling equipment and workers to oil fields. They also carried oil products to other places. Railroad connections made it easier for factories and warehouses to operate in larger cities, such as Houston. The railroad industry linked Texas cities and helped several major industries reach wider markets.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did some towns with railroad depots grow into cities?

2 How were towns far from railroad tracks affected differently from towns with depots?

3 How did railroads change the way cattle ranchers got cattle to buyers?

4 Choose two industries besides cattle ranching. Explain how railroads helped each one.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that a railroad reaches a Texas town. Write exactly three sentences that explain one change in the town and one change each for two different industries.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that tells how railroads changed Texas towns or cities. Circle each phrase that tells how railroads changed an industry, so you can trace the railroad's effects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did some towns with railroad depots grow into cities?	Travelers and businesses stopped there, and the towns gained stores, hotels, and railroad jobs.
2	How were towns far from railroad tracks affected differently from towns with depots?	Towns with depots gained businesses and jobs and could grow. Towns far from tracks sometimes lost customers and grew more slowly.
3	How did railroads change the way cattle ranchers got cattle to buyers?	Ranchers could send cattle in railroad cars more quickly and did not need as many long trail drives.
4	Choose two industries besides cattle ranching. Explain how railroads helped each one.	Answers may include cotton, which could be shipped to ports and textile mills; lumber, which could move from forests to sawmills and towns; or oil, for which trains brought equipment and workers and carried oil products.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A new rail line stops in Clear Creek, and a depot brings stores and workers to town. Cattle ranchers load animals into railcars, so they reach buyers faster. A nearby lumber mill sends boards to faraway cities, so it can sell more lumber.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For the open response, look for exactly three sentences that include a town effect and effects on two different industries.