

Spindletop Changes Texas

Trace how oil development changed Texas jobs and cities.

4.5.B “explain the development and impact of the oil and gas industry on industrialization and urbanization in Texas, including Spindletop and important people such as Pattillo Higgins.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details about oil development, circle three effects on jobs or city growth, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside key events in the order they happened to trace how oil changed Texas.

Oil Comes to Spindletop

- ① Before the big oil boom, Texans used small amounts of oil, but the industry was limited. Near Beaumont, Pattillo Higgins saw natural gas bubbling from the ground around Spindletop Hill. He believed oil lay under the hill's salt dome. Higgins helped organize a company to drill there and urged investors and drillers to test his idea.
- ② On January 10, 1901, a well drilled by Anthony Lucas struck oil at Spindletop. The well blasted oil high into the air and became known as a gusher. Its huge flow showed that Texas oil could be produced on a large scale. News spread quickly, bringing oil companies, workers, and money to the Beaumont area.
- ③ Oil changed both work and where people lived. Companies built derricks, pipelines, refineries, and storage tanks. Refineries turned crude oil into useful fuels, creating industrial jobs. Workers and their families moved near these businesses. Beaumont grew as homes, stores, schools, and services were needed. Other Texas places also grew when oil fields and related industries brought jobs and people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did Pattillo Higgins notice at Spindletop, and what did he think it meant?

2 What happened at Spindletop on January 10, 1901, and why was it important to the oil industry?

3 How did refineries support industrialization in Texas? Include what they did and one result.

4 Explain how the oil industry helped Beaumont grow into a larger city.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine oil is found near a small Texas town. Write three sentences for its newspaper. Tell how drilling could lead to a new industry, how that industry could change the town, and use **because** to connect the changes.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details about oil development, circle three effects on jobs or city growth, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside key events in the order they happened to trace how oil changed Texas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Pattillo Higgins notice at Spindletop, and what did he think it meant?	He saw natural gas bubbling from the ground. He believed oil lay under Spindletop Hill's salt dome.
2	What happened at Spindletop on January 10, 1901, and why was it important to the oil industry?	Anthony Lucas's well struck oil and became a gusher. Its huge flow showed that Texas oil could be produced on a large scale.
3	How did refineries support industrialization in Texas? Include what they did and one result.	Refineries turned crude oil into useful fuels. They created industrial jobs.
4	Explain how the oil industry helped Beaumont grow into a larger city.	Oil companies and related businesses brought jobs. Workers and their families moved to Beaumont, so more homes, stores, schools, and services were needed.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Oil workers could drill wells near our town, and a refinery could process the crude oil. The refinery would need workers, so families might move here for jobs. Because more people would live here, new homes and stores could be built.

Accept equivalent details from the passage and clear cause-and-effect explanations. For the open response, accept any accurate three-sentence chain connecting oil drilling, industry or jobs, and town growth.