

Work Across Regions

Compare past and present ways people earn a living.

5.12.A “compare how people in different regions of the United States earn a living, past and present;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each occupation or work sector, a kind of work people do or a broad work field, such as baking or construction. Write P beside work described in the past and N beside work described today, using both letters if it appears in both time periods.

Changing Work in Three Regions

- ① In the Great Plains, wide grasslands and rich soil shaped work. In the late 1800s, ranching and wheat farming were important occupations. Ranchers raised cattle, while farmers planted crops. Railroad work also grew as tracks carried cattle and wheat to markets. Today, many people still work in ranching and farming, but some also work in wind energy and food-processing businesses.
- ② In Appalachia, coal mining provided jobs in many towns during the 1800s and 1900s. Miners dug coal, and railroads moved it to factories and cities. Some people also worked in timber cutting. Today, fewer coal mining jobs exist in some places. Health care, tourism, and small manufacturing now provide work in many Appalachian communities as well.
- ③ Along the Pacific Northwest coast, logging, fishing, and shipping were major work sectors in the past. Loggers cut trees, fishers caught salmon, and dockworkers loaded ships. Today, fishing and shipping still support some jobs. The region also has technology companies, health care services, and outdoor tourism. These newer sectors give people more ways to earn a living.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did ways of earning a living in the Great Plains change from the late 1800s to today?

2 What change in Appalachian work does the passage describe?

3 Name two Pacific Northwest work sectors that existed in the past and still provide some jobs today.

4 Compare newer work in the Great Plains with newer work in Appalachia. What kinds of work are named in each region?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two regions from the passage. Write three sentences that compare their past work, compare their work today, and explain one way work has changed or continued.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each occupation or work sector, a kind of work people do or a broad work field, such as baking or construction. Write P beside work described in the past and N beside work described today, using both letters if it appears in both time periods. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did ways of earning a living in the Great Plains change from the late 1800s to today?	In the late 1800s, ranching, wheat farming, and railroad work were important. Today, ranching and farming continue, and wind energy and food-processing businesses also provide work.
2	What change in Appalachian work does the passage describe?	Fewer coal mining jobs exist in some places today, while health care, tourism, and small manufacturing provide work in many communities.
3	Name two Pacific Northwest work sectors that existed in the past and still provide some jobs today.	Fishing and shipping.
4	Compare newer work in the Great Plains with newer work in Appalachia. What kinds of work are named in each region?	The Great Plains has wind energy and food-processing businesses. Appalachia has health care, tourism, and small manufacturing.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the past, the Great Plains had ranching and wheat farming jobs, while Appalachia had coal mining and timber cutting jobs. Today, the Great Plains includes wind energy and food-processing businesses, while Appalachia includes health care, tourism, and small manufacturing. Both regions have added newer kinds of work over time.

Accept accurate comparisons using any two regions and details from the passage. The response should include past work, present work, and a clear statement about change or continuity.