

Factory Growth Engine

How factory work changed production and the economy.

5.12.D “describe the impact of mass production, specialization, and division of labor on the economic growth of the United States.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence in each paragraph that tells how mass production, specialization, or division of labor changed production or economic growth. Number your underlined sentences 1, 2, and 3.

Bicycles and Bigger Business

- ① During the late 1800s, a bicycle factory could make many more bicycles than a small workshop. Instead of one craftsperson building each bicycle from start to finish, the factory used mass production. It made large numbers of similar bicycles with machines and repeated steps. Because each bicycle took less time to make, the company could sell bicycles at lower prices.
- ② Factories also relied on specialization. A specialized worker learns one job well, such as shaping metal frames or checking brakes. Division of labor means splitting a larger job into smaller tasks that different workers complete. In the bicycle factory, one worker could attach wheels while another painted frames. Workers became faster at their assigned tasks, so the factory produced more bicycles each day.
- ③ Making more goods helped the United States economy grow. Factories needed workers, raw materials, rail shipping, and stores to sell their products. As companies sold more bicycles and other goods, they earned money to expand and hire more people. Lower prices let more families buy products. Mass production, specialization, and division of labor increased output, trade, and jobs, although some workers repeated the same task all day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How was bicycle production in the factory different from production in a small workshop, and how did this affect prices?

2 How are specialization and division of labor different? Give one bicycle-factory example of each.

3 Why did workers become faster at the factory, and what happened to the number of bicycles made each day?

4 Name two ways factory production helped the United States economy grow besides making more bicycles.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a company that makes reusable water bottles. Write three or four sentences explaining how it uses mass production, specialization, and division of labor, then explain how those choices could help the economy grow.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence in each paragraph that tells how mass production, specialization, or division of labor changed production or economic growth. Number your underlined sentences 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How was bicycle production in the factory different from production in a small workshop, and how did this affect prices?	The factory used machines and repeated steps to make many similar bicycles instead of having one craftsman make each bicycle from start to finish. This took less time and allowed lower prices.
2	How are specialization and division of labor different? Give one bicycle-factory example of each.	Specialization is learning one job well, such as shaping metal frames or checking brakes. Division of labor is splitting a larger job into smaller tasks, such as one worker attaching wheels while another paints frames.
3	Why did workers become faster at the factory, and what happened to the number of bicycles made each day?	Workers became faster because they repeated their assigned tasks. The factory produced more bicycles each day.
4	Name two ways factory production helped the United States economy grow besides making more bicycles.	Factories needed workers, raw materials, rail shipping, and stores. Companies could expand and hire more people, and lower prices allowed more families to buy products.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

River Bottle Works uses mass production to make thousands of similar bottles with machines. Workers specialize by learning jobs such as molding caps or inspecting bottles, and division of labor gives each worker one step in the process. The company can make more bottles at lower prices, sell them to more stores, and hire workers, which helps economic growth.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect mass production to making many similar goods, specialization to one learned job, and division of labor to divided tasks. For the open response, accept any plausible company example that explains all three ideas and connects them to increased output, trade, sales, or jobs.