

Work Shapes America

How place, people, and production build an economy

5.12 "Economics. The student understands patterns of work and economic activities in the United States. The student is expected to: 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 Underline the geographic factors that influenced jobs, circle the sentence about people moving, and number the three sentences that explain factory growth 1, 2, and 3.

Jobs, Places, and Growth

- ① In the 1800s, people earned money in different ways across the United States. In the South, warm weather and rich soil supported cotton farms, often worked by enslaved people before the Civil War. In the Northeast, fast rivers powered textile mills. In the Great Plains, wide grasslands later supported cattle ranching and wheat farming. Natural resources and climate helped shape these jobs.
- ② Today, economic activities still depend on location. California's long growing season helps farmers raise fruits and vegetables, while ports such as Los Angeles connect businesses to Pacific trade. Texas has oil and natural gas, so energy companies operate there. Immigrants have opened businesses and brought skills to many communities. During the Great Migration, many Black Americans moved from the South to northern cities, adding workers to factories.
- ③ Factories grew when manufacturers used mass production, making many identical products quickly. Workers specialized by repeating one task, such as attaching a shoe sole or packing a finished shoe. This division of labor let each worker become faster at a particular job. Businesses could make more goods at lower cost, sell them to more customers, and hire more workers. These changes helped the United States economy grow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Compare the Northeast and the Great Plains in the 1800s. What work occurred in each region, and what geographic factor supported it?

2 What geographic factor supports farming in California, and what resource supports energy jobs in Texas?

3 How did immigrants and the Great Migration affect economic development?

4 How did mass production, specialization, and division of labor help businesses and the economy grow?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a U.S. region not named in the passage. Write four sentences that tell one past job and one job today, explain one geographic factor, and explain how specialization, division of labor, or mass production could help the region grow.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the geographic factors that influenced jobs, circle the sentence about people moving, and number the three sentences that explain factory growth 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare the Northeast and the Great Plains in the 1800s. What work occurred in each region, and what geographic factor supported it?	The Northeast had textile mills powered by fast rivers. The Great Plains had cattle ranching and wheat farming supported by wide grasslands.
2	What geographic factor supports farming in California, and what resource supports energy jobs in Texas?	California's long growing season supports farming. Oil and natural gas support energy jobs in Texas.
3	How did immigrants and the Great Migration affect economic development?	Immigrants opened businesses and brought skills to communities. The Great Migration added workers to factories in northern cities.
4	How did mass production, specialization, and division of labor help businesses and the economy grow?	They helped workers make many goods quickly and efficiently. Businesses could lower costs, sell more goods, and hire more workers.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the Midwest, fertile soil supported corn farming in the past and continues to support corn farming today. Chicago became a transportation center because it is near Lake Michigan and connected to rivers and railroads. Factories in the region used division of labor, with workers completing different tasks. Working this way helped businesses make goods efficiently and provided jobs that helped cities grow.

Accept equivalent descriptions that connect regional work to a stated geographic factor. For the open response, accept any accurate U.S. region not named in the passage that includes all four required parts.