

Changes That Mattered

Read how major twentieth-century events changed life in the United States.

5.5.A “explain the significance of issues and events of the 20th century such as industrialization, urbanization, the Great Depression, the world wars, the civil rights movement, and military actions;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each twentieth-century issue or event named in the passage. Then number three details that explain how an event changed people's lives or the nation.

A Century of Change

- ① In the early 1900s, industrialization changed how many Americans worked. Factories used machines to make goods quickly, so companies needed many workers. Families moved from farms and small towns to cities for jobs. This urbanization made cities grow fast. Crowded housing, traffic, and pollution became problems, but city residents also found stores, schools, and new kinds of work.
- ② When the stock market crashed in 1929, the Great Depression began. Banks failed, businesses closed, and many people lost jobs. Families had less money for food and homes, showing how an economic crisis could affect daily life. During World War II, factories made military supplies, and many women took factory jobs. The war helped increase production and changed workers' roles.
- ③ After the war, the civil rights movement challenged unfair laws and practices that separated people by race. Activists used court cases, marches, and boycotts to seek equal rights. Their work helped lead to laws that banned segregation in public places and protected voting rights. Later military actions, including the Vietnam War, led many Americans to question government decisions and protest war.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why were industrialization and urbanization significant for many American families?

2 What does the passage show about why the Great Depression was significant?

3 How did World War II change factory work in the United States?

4 Name one result of the civil rights movement and one impact of the Vietnam War described in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two events from the passage. Write three sentences explaining one important effect of each event and one way both events changed the United States.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each twentieth-century issue or event named in the passage. Then number three details that explain how an event changed people's lives or the nation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why were industrialization and urbanization significant for many American families?	Factories created jobs, so many families moved from farms and small towns to cities. Cities grew quickly and brought both new opportunities and problems such as crowded housing and pollution.
2	What does the passage show about why the Great Depression was significant?	It showed that an economic crisis could affect daily life because banks and businesses failed, people lost jobs, and families had less money for food and homes.
3	How did World War II change factory work in the United States?	Factories made military supplies, production increased, and many women took factory jobs. This changed workers' roles.
4	Name one result of the civil rights movement and one impact of the Vietnam War described in the passage.	The civil rights movement helped lead to laws that banned segregation in public places and protected voting rights. The Vietnam War led many Americans to question government decisions and protest war.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Industrialization brought factory jobs and encouraged families to move to cities. The Great Depression caused job losses and made it hard for families to buy food and keep homes. Both events changed where people worked or how they could support their families.

Accept effects that are accurately supported by the passage. For Part 3, students should explain an effect of each selected event and make a reasonable connection between their effects.