

Cities on the Rise

Trace how economic opportunities helped Texas cities grow.

7.11.A “explain economic factors and the development of major industries that led to the urbanization of Texas such as transportation, oil and gas, and manufacturing; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each transportation, oil and gas, or manufacturing factor in the passage. Circle the words that show how the factor attracted people, jobs, or businesses to a city.

Economic Forces Build Texas Cities

- ① In the late 1800s, railroad lines changed where Texans lived and worked. Towns with rail connections could send cotton, cattle, and lumber to distant markets more quickly than wagon routes allowed. Stores, warehouses, banks, and repair shops opened near depots because businesses wanted easy shipping. Dallas and Fort Worth became important trade centers as rail lines met there. Jobs and services drew people from farms and small communities. Transportation did not merely move goods, it helped concentrate workers, customers, and businesses in growing cities.
- ② Oil discoveries created another powerful reason for urban growth. After the Spindletop gusher near Beaumont in 1901, companies drilled wells, built storage tanks, and laid pipelines. Beaumont expanded as workers, investors, and suppliers arrived. Houston also grew because the Ship Channel gave oil companies a route to ports and world markets. Refineries turned crude oil into useful fuels and other products, creating many jobs beyond drilling. Oil and gas linked resource areas, transportation routes, and cities where companies could process, sell, and ship products.
- ③ Manufacturing strengthened Texas cities by changing raw materials into finished goods. Factories made products such as machinery, food, chemicals, and clothing. They needed large workforces, dependable power, rail or highway access, and nearby buyers or ports. During and after World War II, defense-related plants helped cities including Fort Worth and San Antonio add industrial jobs. Manufacturing also supported other city work, including trucking, construction, and retail sales. Together, transportation, energy production, and factories created connected economic opportunities that encouraged urban populations to grow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did railroad connections help Dallas and Fort Worth become trade centers and grow?

2 What events after the Spindletop discovery helped Beaumont expand?

3 Why did the Ship Channel help Houston's oil industry and population grow?

4 Name two things factories needed from cities. Then explain how one of those needs could help a city grow.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a Texas town gains a highway connection and a food-processing factory. Write exactly three sentences explaining how transportation and manufacturing could help the town grow into a city. Include one new job or business and explain why people might move there.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each transportation, oil and gas, or manufacturing factor in the passage. Circle the words that show how the factor attracted people, jobs, or businesses to a city. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did railroad connections help Dallas and Fort Worth become trade centers and grow?	Rail lines met in Dallas and Fort Worth, making it easier to ship goods. Businesses, jobs, and services near the rail lines drew people to the cities.
2	What events after the Spindletop discovery helped Beaumont expand?	Companies drilled wells, built storage tanks, and laid pipelines. Workers, investors, and suppliers then arrived in Beaumont.
3	Why did the Ship Channel help Houston's oil industry and population grow?	The Ship Channel gave oil companies a route to ports and world markets. Companies could process, sell, and ship oil products, creating jobs in Houston.
4	Name two things factories needed from cities. Then explain how one of those needs could help a city grow.	Factories needed any two of these: a large workforce, dependable power, rail or highway access, nearby buyers, or ports. A valid explanation connects one need, such as jobs for a large workforce, to people moving to the city.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The highway would let farms deliver crops to the food-processing factory and let finished food reach stores quickly. The factory could hire machine operators, and a trucking business could carry its products. People might move to the town for these jobs and for new stores and services.

Accept logical three-sentence responses that connect the highway to moving goods, the factory to jobs or supporting businesses, and new opportunities to population growth. The job or business may differ from the sample if the economic cause-and-effect chain is clear.