

# Texas Towns Transform

Trace how industries changed where Texans lived and worked.

**7.11** "Economics. The student understands the factors that caused Texas to change from an agrarian to an urban society. The student is expected to: explain economic factors and the development of major industries that led to the urbanization of..."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline three details about transportation, oil and gas, or manufacturing, and circle every job or occupation named; these marks will help you trace how industries changed Texas work.

### From Fields to Cities

- ① Before the early 1900s, many Texans lived in rural places and earned money through farming, ranching, or businesses that served nearby farms. Railroads changed where people and businesses gathered. Tracks carried cotton, cattle, lumber, and people to distant markets more quickly and at lower cost than wagon travel. Towns with rail depots became trading centers. Stores, banks, warehouses, and repair shops opened near the tracks, creating nonfarm jobs and drawing workers and families into growing towns.
- ② In 1901, the Spindletop oil discovery near Beaumont showed that Texas had huge oil potential. Oil companies drilled wells, built pipelines, and needed refineries to turn crude oil into useful fuels. Natural gas later became another important energy resource. These industries brought investment and workers to cities such as Beaumont, Houston, and Dallas. Ports and railroads moved oil, fuel, and equipment. Jobs expanded beyond the field, including drilling, engineering, shipping, accounting, construction, and plant maintenance.
- ③ Manufacturing grew because Texas cities offered transportation links, energy, raw materials, customers, and large workforces. Factories processed cotton and food, made chemicals and machinery, and assembled other goods. As urban places expanded, people found more jobs in factories, offices, hospitals, schools, construction, retail, and government. Farming and ranching continued, but they employed a smaller share of workers than before. Urbanization changed both where Texans lived and the kinds of work they could choose in daily life.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** How did railroads help some Texas towns become growing urban centers? Use two details from the passage.

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**2** Explain how oil and gas development led to more jobs in Texas cities.

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**3** Why were Texas cities good places for manufacturing to grow? Name three advantages from the passage.

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**4** How did urbanization change the kinds of jobs Texans had? Include what happened to farming and ranching.

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Imagine a small Texas community gains a rail connection and a factory that makes farm machinery. Write four sentences explaining two economic reasons businesses or people might move there and two new types of jobs residents could have.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline three details about transportation, oil and gas, or manufacturing, and circle every job or occupation named; these marks will help you trace how industries changed Texas work. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                 | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How did railroads help some Texas towns become growing urban centers? Use two details from the passage.  | <b>Railroads moved goods and people to distant markets faster and more cheaply than wagons. Towns with depots became trading centers where stores, banks, warehouses, and repair shops created jobs.</b>                                       |
| 2 | Explain how oil and gas development led to more jobs in Texas cities.                                    | <b>Oil and gas companies needed wells, pipelines, and refineries, which brought investment and workers to cities. The industry also created jobs such as drilling, engineering, shipping, accounting, construction, and plant maintenance.</b> |
| 3 | Why were Texas cities good places for manufacturing to grow? Name three advantages from the passage.     | <b>Texas cities offered transportation links, energy, raw materials, customers, and large workforces. Any three are correct.</b>                                                                                                               |
| 4 | How did urbanization change the kinds of jobs Texans had? Include what happened to farming and ranching. | <b>More Texans could work in factories, offices, hospitals, schools, construction, retail, and government. Farming and ranching continued, but they employed a smaller share of workers than before.</b>                                       |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

The rail connection could move machinery and supplies to customers quickly. The factory could use the rail line to receive metal and ship finished equipment. Some residents could work as machine operators or repair technicians. Others could find jobs in shipping or office work.

Accept supported cause-and-effect explanations that connect transportation or manufacturing to business growth, population growth, and job changes. For the open response, accept reasonable new occupations and economic reasons that fit the scenario.