

Oil Changes Texas

Trace how petroleum production built an industrial economy.

7.7.A "explain how the oil industry led to the industrialization of Texas;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions or businesses connected to getting, processing, or moving oil. Circle results for workers, businesses, or cities, then draw an arrow from one underlined cause to one circled result in each paragraph.

From Gusher to Industry

- ① On January 10, 1901, the Spindletop well near Beaumont blew oil high into the air. The huge gusher showed that Texas oil fields could produce far more petroleum than many people expected. Investors brought money to the area, and drilling crews rushed to search for additional fields. Oil was not useful only at the well. It had to be pumped, stored, processed, and moved to buyers. These needs created a chain of new businesses and jobs.
- ② Refineries turned crude oil into products such as gasoline and kerosene. Companies built refineries along the Gulf Coast, where ports could ship petroleum and fuel. Railroads and pipelines carried oil from fields to refineries and markets. Building and operating these systems required welders, mechanics, engineers, laborers, and office workers. As companies expanded, workers earned wages and spent money at local stores. Oil therefore supported both factory work and service businesses, making Texas communities more industrial.
- ③ Cities such as Beaumont, Houston, and Port Arthur grew as oil companies located wells, refineries, storage tanks, and shipping facilities nearby. New industrial plants also used petroleum as fuel and as a raw material for products. Workers and their families needed housing, schools, and transportation, so construction and public services grew. The oil industry did not simply sell a natural resource. It connected extraction, manufacturing, transportation, investment, and urban growth. By creating this connected system, oil helped change Texas into a major industrial state.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did the Spindletop gusher bring investors and drilling crews to the Beaumont area?

2 How did refineries, railroads, pipelines, and ports help turn oil from a well into products that buyers could use?

3 Explain how oil industry jobs helped other local businesses grow.

4 How did oil facilities help cities such as Beaumont, Houston, and Port Arthur become more industrial?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a Texas town where a new oil field has been found. Write at least four sentences that explain how the discovery could lead to industrial growth, using a chain of causes and effects from oil production to community change.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline actions or businesses connected to getting, processing, or moving oil. Circle results for workers, businesses, or cities, then draw an arrow from one underlined cause to one circled result in each paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did the Spindletop gusher bring investors and drilling crews to the Beaumont area?	It showed that Texas fields could produce much more petroleum than people expected, so investors provided money and crews searched for more oil fields.
2	How did refineries, railroads, pipelines, and ports help turn oil from a well into products that buyers could use?	Refineries processed crude oil into products such as gasoline and kerosene. Railroads and pipelines moved oil to refineries and markets, and ports shipped petroleum and fuel.
3	Explain how oil industry jobs helped other local businesses grow.	Oil companies needed workers in jobs such as welding, mechanics, engineering, labor, and office work. Those workers earned wages and spent money at local stores, supporting service businesses.
4	How did oil facilities help cities such as Beaumont, Houston, and Port Arthur become more industrial?	Wells, refineries, storage tanks, and shipping facilities brought industrial work to the cities. Workers then needed housing, schools, transportation, construction, and public services, causing the cities to grow.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a Texas town, a new oil field brings drilling crews and investment. A company then builds a refinery and a pipeline, so the oil can become fuel and reach buyers. The facilities hire mechanics and office workers. As workers spend their wages, stores, homes, and services grow, making the town more industrial.

Accept answers that accurately trace a cause-and-effect chain from oil extraction to processing, transportation, jobs, business growth, or city growth. Students may use different oil-related businesses or community changes if their explanation remains historically plausible and connected.