

Regions at Work

Compare how resources, labor, and transportation shaped regional economies.

8.12.A "identify economic differences among different regions of the United States;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that names a region's product or type of work. Circle each phrase that tells how labor, transportation, or markets made that region's economy different.

Three Regional Economies

- ① By the mid-1800s, the Northeast had become a center of manufacturing. Textile mills turned cotton into cloth, and factories made shoes, tools, and machinery. Many cities had ports, banks, railroads, and large groups of wage workers. Factory owners bought raw materials and sold finished goods to distant markets. This economy grew from investment, transportation, and a labor force that included immigrants seeking paid work. Farms in the region often raised dairy products, vegetables, and grain for nearby cities.
- ② In the South, warm temperatures and long growing seasons supported cash crops, especially cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, and rice. Large plantations produced much of this output for sale rather than local use. Enslaved African Americans supplied forced labor on many plantations, while some white farmers worked smaller farms. Planters and merchants relied on rivers, railroads, and ports to move crops to buyers. Cotton linked the South to textile mills in the Northeast and in Britain, but Southern wealth was concentrated in land and enslaved people.
- ③ West of the Mississippi River, economic activity varied widely. Settlers on the Great Plains grew wheat and raised cattle, while miners in places such as California and Nevada sought gold and silver. Ranchers, farmers, and mining companies needed land, water, tools, and routes to markets. Railroads helped western producers send beef, grain, and minerals east. In return, western communities bought manufactured goods from eastern factories. As rail lines expanded, towns grew near stations, but drought, distance, and changing prices could make western work uncertain.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Identify two features of the Northeast that helped its manufacturing economy grow.

2 How did the South's main products and labor system differ from the Northeast's?

3 Give two examples that show why the western economy was not all the same kind of work.

4 Explain one way railroads connected the western economy with the eastern economy.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences comparing the Northeast and the West in the mid-1800s. Include one kind of work or product in each region, one transportation or market detail, and one sentence explaining an economic difference.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that names a region's product or type of work. Circle each phrase that tells how labor, transportation, or markets made that region's economy different. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify two features of the Northeast that helped its manufacturing economy grow.	Any two: factories or mills, ports, banks, railroads, wage workers, immigrants seeking paid work, investment, or access to raw materials and distant markets.
2	How did the South's main products and labor system differ from the Northeast's?	The South mainly produced cash crops such as cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, and rice, often on large plantations using enslaved labor. The Northeast centered on manufacturing and employed wage workers, including immigrants.
3	Give two examples that show why the western economy was not all the same kind of work.	Any two valid examples: Great Plains settlers grew wheat, raised cattle, miners sought gold, miners sought silver, ranchers worked with cattle, or farmers produced grain.
4	Explain one way railroads connected the western economy with the eastern economy.	Railroads helped western producers send beef, grain, and minerals east, and western communities bought manufactured goods from eastern factories.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Northeast's economy centered on manufacturing in mills and factories. Its ports, banks, railroads, and wage workers helped factory owners sell goods. The West included farming, ranching, and mining, which depended on land, water, and access to markets. Unlike the Northeast's factory economy, western producers often sent agricultural products and minerals east by railroad.

Accept accurate comparisons supported by the passage and wording that uses equivalent terms, such as factory work for manufacturing. For the open response, check for exactly four sentences, both regions, a product or type of work for each, a transportation or market detail, and a clear comparison.