

Three Economies, One Nation

Analyze how regional resources, labor, and investment shaped the United States before the Civil War.

8.12.C “analyze the causes and effects of economic differences among different regions of the United States at selected times.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline causes of regional economic differences, circle their effects, and label three matching cause-and-effect pairs with the same number.

Regional Economies in 1850

- ① In 1850, the United States had growing regional economies. In the Northeast, many investors built textile mills and other factories. Rivers supplied waterpower, and ports connected manufacturers to markets. Factory owners hired wage workers, including many immigrants. The region's cities grew as workers sought jobs. Railroads and canals moved raw materials to factories and finished goods to buyers. Because the Northeast had capital, transportation links, and a large labor force, manufacturing became a major source of wealth there.
- ② In the South, warm climate and fertile soil supported large-scale cotton farming. Cotton planters sold much of their crop to textile mills in the United States and Britain. Enslaved people were forced to provide labor, allowing planters to produce cotton at low labor cost while denying workers wages and freedom. Profits were often invested in more land and enslaved people rather than factories. As a result, the South depended heavily on one export crop and had fewer manufacturing jobs, rail lines, and large cities than the Northeast.
- ③ West of the Mississippi River, settlers raised wheat, corn, and livestock on land taken from Native nations through U.S. expansion. Gold discoveries in California drew miners, merchants, and workers in 1849. Western farmers needed eastern-made tools, railroad connections, and markets for their crops. These regional differences shaped national debates. Northern manufacturers favored policies that protected factory goods. Southern planters wanted to preserve slavery's expansion into western territories. Economic systems did not alone cause conflict, but they helped deepen disagreements that led toward the Civil War.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did manufacturing become a major source of wealth in the Northeast? Name two causes from the passage.

2 How did forced labor shape the South's economic development? Include one effect on the region's economy.

3 Compare how northeastern investors and southern planters used profits or resources. How did those choices create different regional economies?

4 How did economic differences among the regions help lead to national disagreement before the Civil War?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four sentences explaining which regional economic difference was most likely to increase national conflict. State a claim, name a cause of the difference, and explain two effects.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline causes of regional economic differences, circle their effects, and label three matching cause-and-effect pairs with the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did manufacturing become a major source of wealth in the Northeast? Name two causes from the passage.	The Northeast had capital, transportation links such as ports, railroads, and canals, and a large labor force. Rivers also supplied waterpower for mills.
2	How did forced labor shape the South's economic development? Include one effect on the region's economy.	Enslaved people provided unpaid forced labor for cotton production, which lowered planters' labor costs. Planters often invested profits in land and enslaved people, so the South relied heavily on cotton and developed fewer factories, rail lines, and cities.
3	Compare how northeastern investors and southern planters used profits or resources. How did those choices create different regional economies?	Northeastern investors built factories and used transportation connections to sell manufactured goods. Southern planters often invested in more land and enslaved people, creating a cotton-export economy with less manufacturing.
4	How did economic differences among the regions help lead to national disagreement before the Civil War?	Northern manufacturers supported policies that protected factory goods, while southern planters wanted slavery to expand into western territories. Their different economic interests deepened sectional disagreements.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The contrast between slave-based cotton farming and wage-based manufacturing was most likely to increase national conflict. Southern climate and soil supported cotton, while northeastern capital and transportation supported factories. Southern planters invested cotton profits in land and enslaved people, leaving less investment for manufacturing. Their interest in expanding slavery into western territories deepened sectional disagreements.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect reasoning that accurately connects resources, labor, investment, transportation, or markets to regional economic outcomes. For the open response, accept any supported claim that includes one cause and two accurate effects from the passage.