

Regions and Resources

Trace how land, labor, and trade shaped regional economies before 1877.

8.12 "Economics. The student understands why various sections of the United States developed different patterns of economic activity through 1877..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each regional economic activity, circle each cause of that activity, and number each effect to trace how regional economies developed.

Economies Before the Civil War

- ① By the early 1800s, the Northeast had many ports, towns, rivers, and investors. Merchants shipped goods through Atlantic ports, while waterpower turned mill machines. Textile factories grew in places such as Lowell, Massachusetts, where wage workers made cloth. Farms in the region were usually smaller than southern plantations because the climate and soil favored mixed crops rather than large tobacco or cotton fields. Roads, canals, and later railroads linked northeastern factories to markets and helped industry expand.
- ② In the South, warm weather, long growing seasons, fertile land, and overseas demand encouraged plantation agriculture. Planters raised cash crops, especially cotton after the cotton gin made cleaning seeds faster. Large plantations required much labor. European traders had carried captive Africans across the Atlantic for centuries in the transatlantic slave trade. In the United States, enslaved people were forced to produce crops that brought profits to plantation owners, merchants, and textile manufacturers. Although Congress banned imports in 1808, the domestic slave trade forcibly moved people west as cotton planting spread into Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas.
- ③ The Midwest developed a different pattern. Its fertile plains supported grain and livestock farms, and rivers, canals, and railroads sent food east. Western farmers bought manufactured tools and cloth from the Northeast. Southern cotton supplied northern and British textile mills, tying regions together through trade. Yet regional economies also created conflict. Northern industrial growth increased opposition to slavery, while southern leaders defended a system central to cotton profits. As slavery expanded westward, arguments over labor, political power, and new states intensified before the Civil War.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Describe one economic difference between the Northeast and the Midwest.

2 What conditions and demand helped the plantation system grow in the South?

3 How did the trade in enslaved people change after 1808, and what effect did it have?

4 Explain one way regional economies connected the United States and one way they added conflict before the Civil War.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose the South or the Midwest. Write exactly four sentences explaining how resources or geography shaped its economy, then explain one effect on another region or on national conflict before the Civil War.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each regional economic activity, circle each cause of that activity, and number each effect to trace how regional economies developed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Describe one economic difference between the Northeast and the Midwest.	The Northeast developed textile factories and other industry, while the Midwest focused on grain and livestock farms that sent food east.
2	What conditions and demand helped the plantation system grow in the South?	Warm weather, long growing seasons, and fertile land supported cash crops. Overseas demand for cotton, made easier to process by the cotton gin, encouraged plantation growth.
3	How did the trade in enslaved people change after 1808, and what effect did it have?	After Congress banned imports of enslaved people in 1808, the domestic slave trade forcibly moved many people west. This supplied labor as cotton planting spread into states such as Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas.
4	Explain one way regional economies connected the United States and one way they added conflict before the Civil War.	Trade connected regions because southern cotton supplied textile mills and western farmers bought northeastern goods. Conflict grew because many northerners opposed slavery while southern leaders defended it as central to cotton profits.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before the Civil War, the South's warm climate, fertile land, and long growing season supported cotton plantations. High demand for cotton encouraged plantation owners to seek more land and labor. Enslaved labor produced cotton profits, and the domestic slave trade forcibly moved many people west. As slavery expanded with cotton, disputes over new states and political power increased.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that use accurate details from the passage. For the open response, check for exactly four sentences, a regional resource or geographic condition, an economic activity, and a connected effect.