

From Mills to Markets

Trace how inventions changed production and the movement of goods.

8.27.B “analyze how technological innovations changed the way goods were manufactured and distributed, nationally and internationally; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each technological innovation in the passage. Circle the words or phrases that show its effect on manufacturing or distribution, then write N for national or I for international beside each distribution effect.

Machines, Rails, and World Markets

- ① In the early 1800s, many Americans bought goods made by local craftspeople. A shoemaker or blacksmith created one item at a time, often using hand tools. New machines changed this process. Textile mills used waterpower, and later steam power, to run spinning and weaving machines. Factory owners divided work into repeated steps, so each worker made one part of a product. Interchangeable parts, pieces made to standard sizes, let factories assemble and repair goods more quickly. Factories could produce large numbers of similar items at lower cost.
- ② Railroads connected factories to distant markets. A manufacturer in Chicago could load finished farm tools into railcars and send them to stores in other states. Railroads also carried iron, coal, cotton, and other raw materials to factories. Telegraph lines, often built beside railroad tracks, sent messages quickly about prices, orders, and train schedules. These systems helped businesses coordinate production and delivery across the nation. Instead of waiting weeks for news or wagon shipments, companies could respond faster to customers and move goods in larger loads.
- ③ Technological change also linked American businesses to world markets. Steamships crossed oceans more regularly than sailing ships because they did not depend completely on wind. Refrigerated railcars and ships, developed in the late nineteenth century, kept meat and other perishable foods cold for longer trips. American factories could buy materials from abroad and sell manufactured goods in other countries. However, faster transportation increased competition. A factory had to consider prices and products from foreign producers, not only from nearby businesses.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did factory machines and divided work change the way goods were manufactured?

2 Explain how railroads and telegraph lines worked together to change the national distribution of goods.

3 How did refrigerated railcars and ships change the distribution of perishable foods?

4 What was one benefit and one challenge of faster international transportation for American factories?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one technological innovation not named in the passage. In exactly three sentences, explain how it changes manufacturing and how it helps goods move within the United States and to other countries.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each technological innovation in the passage. Circle the words or phrases that show its effect on manufacturing or distribution, then write N for national or I for international beside each distribution effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did factory machines and divided work change the way goods were manufactured?	Machines and repeated work steps allowed factories to make large numbers of similar goods more quickly and at lower cost.
2	Explain how railroads and telegraph lines worked together to change the national distribution of goods.	Railroads moved raw materials to factories and finished goods to distant stores. Telegraph lines quickly sent information about prices, orders, and train schedules, helping businesses coordinate delivery.
3	How did refrigerated railcars and ships change the distribution of perishable foods?	They kept meat and other perishable foods cold during longer trips, allowing those goods to travel farther.
4	What was one benefit and one challenge of faster international transportation for American factories?	A benefit was that factories could buy materials from abroad and sell goods in other countries. A challenge was increased competition from foreign producers.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Computer networks let an appliance factory share digital designs and production orders, helping machines make the correct parts. The same networks send shipping information to warehouses and carriers, so goods can be routed across the United States. They also help companies coordinate shipments and sales with customers in other countries.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For the open response, accept any accurate innovation not named in the passage that explains both manufacturing and national and international distribution in exactly three sentences.