

Changing Work Paths

Trace how technology and global connections shape careers.

CE.14.d “examining the effect of technological change and globalization on career opportunities;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about technology, circle details about global connections, and number the career opportunities or challenges caused by each change.

Riverbend Furniture Changes

- ① At Riverbend Furniture, workers once cut every wooden chair part by hand. Now computer-guided machines cut pieces quickly and precisely. The company still needs carpenters, but it also hires machine technicians to program, repair, and test the equipment. A technician needs training in digital controls and safety rules. Because the machines make more parts each day, the company can fill larger orders. Technological change did not simply erase jobs. It changed some tasks and created a need for workers with new skills.
- ② Riverbend also buys fabric from a company in another country and sells finished chairs to stores abroad. These links are part of globalization, the growing connection among countries through trade, information, and business. Selling to more places can create jobs in shipping, customer service, translation, and international sales. However, Riverbend competes with furniture makers worldwide. If another company sells similar chairs for less, Riverbend may need to lower prices, improve quality, or find new customers. Globalization can expand career opportunities while also making competition stronger.
- ③ Jordan is interested in a career at Riverbend. He notices that an entry-level assembly worker may learn to operate digital tools, while a worker who speaks more than one language may help communicate with overseas suppliers or customers. Jordan could prepare by taking technology classes, building strong communication skills, and learning about other cultures. No single change guarantees a job. Still, people who watch how technology and global connections affect a business can identify growing roles and choose useful training. Career opportunities often depend on both local needs and worldwide changes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did computer-guided machines change both the work done at Riverbend and the workers the company hires?

2 Name two career areas that can grow when Riverbend sells chairs in more countries.

3 What challenge does worldwide competition create for Riverbend, and what is one action the company might take?

4 Which skill could help a Riverbend worker communicate with overseas suppliers or customers? Explain why that skill is useful.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a business other than Riverbend. In 4 or 5 sentences, describe one technological change and one global connection that could affect career opportunities there. Name at least two jobs or skills, and explain one opportunity or challenge.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details about technology, circle details about global connections, and number the career opportunities or challenges caused by each change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did computer-guided machines change both the work done at Riverbend and the workers the company hires?	The machines cut chair pieces quickly and precisely. Riverbend still needs carpenters, but it also hires technicians to program, repair, and test the machines.
2	Name two career areas that can grow when Riverbend sells chairs in more countries.	Any two: shipping, customer service, translation, or international sales.
3	What challenge does worldwide competition create for Riverbend, and what is one action the company might take?	A company elsewhere may sell similar chairs for less. Riverbend might lower prices, improve quality, or find new customers.
4	Which skill could help a Riverbend worker communicate with overseas suppliers or customers? Explain why that skill is useful.	Speaking more than one language could help. It would help the worker communicate with suppliers or customers in other countries.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a grocery store, self-checkout machines could increase the need for workers who maintain the machines and help customers use them. A worker could prepare for this role by learning basic technology and customer service. The store may buy fruit from other countries, creating work in ordering, shipping, and communication with suppliers. A bilingual purchasing worker could have an opportunity to work with those suppliers, but the store may face competition from online sellers.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect technology or global business links to changing job tasks, needed skills, new roles, or stronger competition. For Part 3, accept reasonable business examples with both a technological change and a global connection.