

Machines Change America

Trace how industrial growth reshaped work, business, and farming.

USII.3.b “explaining the impact of new inventions, the rise of big business, the growth of industry, and the changes to life on American farms in response to industrialization;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four changes described in the passage, circle an effect of each change, and write matching numbers beside each cause-and-effect pair.

Industry Reaches Farm and City

- ① After the Civil War, inventors developed tools that changed how Americans made, moved, and used goods. The telephone let business owners send messages quickly across long distances. Electric lights allowed some factories and stores to stay open after dark. Refrigerated railroad cars carried meat and produce farther before spoiling. These inventions connected producers, workers, and customers in faster ways. As goods traveled more easily, people could buy products made far from home, and markets grew.
- ② Industry grew as factories used machines and hired many workers. A factory could make large numbers of shoes, cloth, or steel goods faster than small workshops could. Some companies became big businesses by controlling large amounts of money, materials, factories, and transportation. Standard Oil, led by John D. Rockefeller, bought or controlled many parts of the oil business. Such companies could lower prices or push smaller rivals out. Their power shaped jobs, prices, and what products Americans could buy.
- ③ Industrial growth also changed American farms. New machines, including mechanical reapers, helped farmers harvest more grain with less hand labor. Railroads carried crops to distant city markets, so farmers often planted cash crops to sell rather than growing many different foods. However, farmers had to pay for machines and rail shipping. Crop prices could fall when many farms produced the same crop. Debt and low prices led some farmers to join groups that demanded fairer railroad rates and other changes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1 How did two inventions named in the first paragraph change the way Americans produced, sold, or bought goods?

- 2 What resources did big businesses control, and how could that control affect smaller companies?

- 3 Explain one benefit and one problem that railroads and new machines created for farmers.

- 4 Why did some farmers join groups that asked for fairer railroad rates?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label explaining how industrialization connected a factory, a big business, and a farm. Use at least two cause-and-effect words, and include one benefit and one challenge.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline four changes described in the passage, circle an effect of each change, and write matching numbers beside each cause-and-effect pair. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did two inventions named in the first paragraph change the way Americans produced, sold, or bought goods?	The telephone let owners send messages quickly over long distances, and electric lights let some factories and stores stay open after dark. Refrigerated railroad cars also moved meat and produce farther before spoiling.
2	What resources did big businesses control, and how could that control affect smaller companies?	Big businesses controlled large amounts of money, materials, factories, and transportation. They could lower prices or push smaller rivals out.
3	Explain one benefit and one problem that railroads and new machines created for farmers.	Machines helped farmers harvest more grain with less hand labor, and railroads carried crops to distant city markets. Farmers also had to pay for machines and rail shipping, and crop prices could fall.
4	Why did some farmers join groups that asked for fairer railroad rates?	They faced debt and low crop prices, and they wanted changes such as fairer railroad rates.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Because factories used machines, they made many goods quickly and hired workers. Big businesses controlled factories and transportation, so their choices could affect prices and smaller companies. Railroads helped farmers sell crops in city markets, which was a benefit. However, farmers who paid for machines and shipping could face debt when crop prices fell.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations drawn from the passage. For the museum label, look for a clear connection among industry, big business, and farming, plus a benefit, a challenge, and at least two cause-and-effect words.