

Lights, Steel, Trade

How one fair displayed American innovation to the world.

USII.3.h “describing the technological advances and the broader impact of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair on America's rise as a world leader in innovation, business, and trade.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two technological advances and circle details that show how the fair affected business, trade, or America's reputation. Number the links you can make between an advance and its broader impact.

A Fair That Showed Progress

- ① In 1893, Chicago hosted the World's Columbian Exposition, often called the Chicago World's Fair. The fair marked 400 years since Christopher Columbus's voyage. More than 27 million visits were recorded during its six-month run. Visitors entered a planned area of grand white buildings, later called the White City. Electric lights made the grounds glow at night. For many Americans, this was a first close look at large-scale electric power and at a modern city designed to impress the world.
- ② The fair showed how new systems could change daily life and business. George Westinghouse's company supplied alternating-current electricity to light the fairgrounds. This system could send power over long distances, making it useful for growing cities and factories. Engineer George Washington Gale Ferris Jr. created a huge steel wheel that carried riders high above the fair. Its size and moving parts demonstrated new possibilities in engineering, steel production, and paid entertainment for large crowds each day.
- ③ The fair also linked innovation to trade and business. Companies, states, and nations displayed machines, foods, art, and manufactured goods. Visitors could compare products and imagine new markets. The event drew international attention to American factories, engineers, and business organizers. Chicago's rail connections and busy location helped bring people and goods together. The fair did not make the United States a world leader by itself, but it showed the nation's industrial strength and its ability to host global exchange. Its bright image of progress influenced later city planning, public celebrations, and consumer culture.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two technological advances shown at the fair. What did each one demonstrate?

2 Why was alternating-current electricity useful for growing cities and factories?

3 How did the fair connect new technology with business opportunities? Use one detail from the passage.

4 Why does the passage say the fair helped show that the United States was becoming a world leader, even though it did not make the nation a leader by itself?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence newspaper report from 1893 about one advance at the fair. Explain what it showed, how it could affect business or trade, and how it could strengthen America's reputation for innovation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two technological advances and circle details that show how the fair affected business, trade, or America's reputation. Number the links you can make between an advance and its broader impact. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two technological advances shown at the fair. What did each one demonstrate?	Alternating-current electricity demonstrated large-scale electric power that could serve cities and factories. The Ferris wheel demonstrated engineering, steel production, and paid entertainment for large crowds.
2	Why was alternating-current electricity useful for growing cities and factories?	It could send power over long distances.
3	How did the fair connect new technology with business opportunities? Use one detail from the passage.	The Ferris wheel used engineering and steel to create paid entertainment for crowds. Also, displayed goods let visitors compare products and imagine new markets.
4	Why does the passage say the fair helped show that the United States was becoming a world leader, even though it did not make the nation a leader by itself?	The fair drew international attention to American factories, engineers, and business organizers. It showed U.S. industrial strength and the ability to host global exchange.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the Chicago fair, alternating-current electricity lit the grounds at night. Because it could carry power over long distances, cities and factories could use it more easily. The glowing fairgrounds showed visitors from many places that American companies could handle large electrical systems. This display could attract interest in American engineering and products.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect a fair technology or display to business, trade, industrial strength, or international reputation. For the newspaper report, look for four sentences that include an advance, an economic effect, and a claim about national innovation.