

Virginia on the Move

How transportation, industry, and cities built Virginia's economy.

VS.9.a "explaining the importance of railroads, waterways, new industries, and the growth of cities to Virginia's economic development in the late 1800s; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about railroads, waterways, new industries, and cities that explains how each helped Virginia's economy. You should underline four details total.

Building Virginia's Economy

- ① After the Civil War, Virginia needed ways to move goods and people. Railroad tracks connected farms, coal mines, forests, and factories with towns and ports. A farmer could ship crops farther than before, and a mine owner could send coal to buyers. Railroads also brought workers and supplies to new businesses. Faster travel helped Virginia businesses sell more goods and earn more money.
- ② Virginia's rivers and harbors were important routes for trade. Boats carried heavy cargo, such as tobacco, lumber, and coal, to ports. The James River helped connect Richmond with other places, while the deep harbor at Norfolk welcomed ocean-going ships. Waterways allowed goods to reach markets and brought materials into Virginia. Ports supported jobs for sailors, dockworkers, merchants, and shipbuilders.
- ③ New industries gave Virginians more kinds of work. Factories processed tobacco and made textiles, while lumber and coal businesses used Virginia's natural resources. Cities grew where transportation and jobs met. Richmond remained a busy center of trade and manufacturing. Norfolk grew because its port connected Virginia to ocean trade. Roanoke grew quickly after railroads brought railroad workers, shops, and other businesses.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did railroads help Virginia businesses sell more goods?

2 What were two ways waterways helped Virginia's economy?

3 Why did Norfolk grow in the late 1800s?

4 How did new industries help cities grow?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine a late-1800s Virginia town that wants to grow. Write three sentences explaining how one transportation route and one new industry could bring jobs and business to the town.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about railroads, waterways, new industries, and cities that explains how each helped Virginia's economy. You should underline four details total. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did railroads help Virginia businesses sell more goods?	Railroads connected farms, mines, forests, and factories to towns and ports, so goods could be shipped farther to buyers.
2	What were two ways waterways helped Virginia's economy?	Waterways carried heavy goods to ports and markets, and they brought materials into Virginia.
3	Why did Norfolk grow in the late 1800s?	Norfolk grew because its port connected Virginia to ocean trade.
4	How did new industries help cities grow?	New industries created jobs. Cities grew where jobs and transportation came together.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A late-1800s Virginia town beside a river opens a new flour mill that uses grain from nearby farms. Boats bring grain to the mill and carry flour to buyers. The mill creates jobs, so more workers and stores come to the town.

Accept answers that connect transportation with moving goods, reaching markets, bringing supplies, or bringing workers. For Your Turn, accept any logical three-sentence plan that includes a transportation route, an industry, and an explanation of economic or city growth.