

From Farms to Cities

Track how jobs and daily life changed as Virginia's cities grew.

VS.9.b "explaining the economic and social transition from a rural society to a more urban society."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show economic changes and circle three details that show social changes. Your marks will help you explain why Virginia became more urban.

Virginia Begins to Change

- ① After the Civil War, most Virginians lived in the countryside. Families worked on farms, and many towns were small. People bought supplies at local stores or made what they needed. Farm work followed the seasons. Neighbors often met at churches, schools, and market days. Travel was slow, so people usually lived and worked close to home.
- ② New railroads connected farms, mines, factories, and growing towns. Coal mining and factory jobs offered wages to people who left farm work. Businesses could send goods farther and receive materials more quickly. Cities such as Richmond, Roanoke, and Norfolk grew as workers and their families arrived. This changed Virginia's economy because more people earned money through industry, trade, and services.
- ③ Urban life brought social changes as well. In cities, people lived nearer to many other families and could use streetcars to reach jobs, stores, and schools. Newcomers met people with different jobs and backgrounds. City neighborhoods offered libraries, newspapers, and entertainment. Rural communities remained important, but the growing cities gave Virginians new ways to work, travel, learn, and spend free time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What kind of work did most Virginians do before the cities grew?

2 How did railroads help businesses and growing towns?

3 Why did some people leave farm work for cities?

4 How did growing cities change both work and daily life for Virginians?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a farm family moves to a growing Virginia town. Write four sentences explaining one economic change and two social changes the family might experience.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show economic changes and circle three details that show social changes. Your marks will help you explain why Virginia became more urban. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What kind of work did most Virginians do before the cities grew?	Most Virginians worked on farms.
2	How did railroads help businesses and growing towns?	Railroads connected places, helped businesses send goods farther, and helped them receive materials more quickly.
3	Why did some people leave farm work for cities?	Coal mines and factories offered wage-paying jobs.
4	How did growing cities change both work and daily life for Virginians?	More people worked in industry, trade, and services instead of farming. City residents could use streetcars and had access to stores, schools, libraries, newspapers, and entertainment.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Carter family left its farm when a parent found a job at a factory. They earned wages instead of depending only on farm work. In town, the children rode a streetcar to school and visited the library. The family met neighbors with different jobs and backgrounds.

Accept reasonable paraphrases supported by the passage. For the open response, accept varied situations if the student includes one work or money change and two accurate changes in city life.