**US History**

**Measurement Topic 2:** Industrialization and Immigration

**Level 3 Learning Target # 1: Explain how the US developed into a major industrial power**

**Directions:**

1st- Number the paragraphs

2nd - Independently read the passage, and circle words you don’t know. Predict the meaning of the words.

3rd- Read the passage a second time with a partner, highlight information and write side notes.

4th- Answer the questions on the back in complete sentences.

**Three main things that influenced industrialization**

The abundance of natural resources, the increased amount of unskilled labor, immigrants, as well as the new inventions all came together to help transform the United States economy from agrarian(farm based) into the world’s leading industrial nation. Industrialization is when nations use their natural resources, people, and capital to produce/create items made with machines in factories. Example: Cattle was raised (natural resource) and then they were shipped on railroad cards (new invention) to the factories in the cities where immigrants would slaughter and butcher them for fast, fresh, meat to be sold for a profit.

Prior to the United States becoming industrialized, farming was the main source of income for the United States. Industrialization grew in the United States with the assistance of large amounts of natural resources. The large deposits of iron and coal were mined by immigrants, cheaply, and then used to **power** the trains that in turn, shipped the remaining coal to the east coast to also provide power for the new factories that were producing food, clothing and other goods for cheap. Iron was made into steel which was then used to **build** more railroads, bridges, ships, factories and buildings.

Immigrants came to the United States for many different reasons yet when immigrants came to the United States they took the lowest paying jobs. Immigrant’s manly Chinese and Italian workers worked to build the railroads, factories and buildings in the cities and in turn used their wages to purchase the products that were being produced by the factories. This large supply of cheap labor helped railroads be created faster and kept factories open longer, due to the constant supply of immigrants willing to work for cheap wages. Americans, nonimmigrants, were concerned with the amount of immigrants coming into the United States and they began to get upset over the large amounts of immigrants dominating the cities and workforce. This feeling was called **nativism** and it lead to the Americans complaining enough to get laws passed against immigrants such as the Chinese exclusion act.

Technological advancements (inventions) such as the telephone, electricity, ice machine and advancements of the railroads all helped increase industrialization in the United States. With the invention of electricity, factories went from only being open for 8 hours a day to producing products 24 hours a day. With the invention of the telephone, factories could communicate with their suppliers of the natural resources out in the country, allowing factory owners to order more or less materials resulting in the factories never running out of natural resources, which causing more products being created. The invention of the ice machine allowed factories to protect perishable foods (food that rots quickly) and keep them longer before transporting them to markets. This also lead to the invention of the ice box in railroad cars which could transport perishable ideas for long distances.

Another important factor that enabled the United States to industrialize rapidly was the **free enterprise system.** In a free enterprise system, **entrepreneurs**, people with the money, invest money in a company or create a company. Under free enterprise the new companies are created without a lot of government interference. This lack of government interference allowed the new industrialized companies to grow. The free enterprise system, little or no government involvement with business, allowed the United States to industrialize quickly since the government was not interfering with what companies were doing, whether it was legal or illegal.

**Effects of Industrialization**

The economy of the United States went from agrarian to industrial almost overnight. With the abundance of natural resources, a cheap labor force, new inventions and little interference by the government the United States was able to become a major industrial country.

Trade with in the United States and with other countries increased. Trade is really just selling products produced by the new industries in the United States to other countries. Cities grew with the increased immigrant population and the creation of factories, packing houses, shipping yards, railroad stations and ware houses, which were all places people worked. Communication from one side of the United States to the other side increased with the invention of the railroad system then later the telephone. Factories were the first to take advantage of the new invention, electricity, to power their factories 24/7 resulting in more jobs for workers and more production of products to trade/sell. Also the United States was now seen as a competing industrial nation to all the other big nations around the world.

**Answer the following questions here or on another sheet of paper.**

1. Prior to industrialization, what was the main source of income for the United States?
2. What three main things influenced industrial growth in the Unites States?
3. What natural resources helped the United States go from an agrarian nation to an industrialized nation? How did the USA use the natural resources?
4. Why were immigrants important for the USA to industrialize? What jobs did they preform?
5. What new inventions helped the USA industrialize and why were they important?
6. Why was a lack of government involvement important for expansion of industrialization in the USA?
7. What were the effects of industrialization in the United States?