

**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 11.2.6***Emergence of the United
States as an Industrial Power*

Specific Objective: Trace the economic development of the United States and its emergence as a major industrial power, including its gains from trade and advantages of its physical geography.

Read the summary to answer questions on the next page.

Industrialization

- At the end of the Civil War, the United States was still a mostly agricultural nation. Within the next sixty years, the country grew to be the leading industrial power in the world.
- Industry in the United States benefited from several conditions including:
 - a wealth of natural resources
 - government support for business
 - a growing urban population, which provided cheap labor and a market for new products
 - a transportation network of rivers, canals, roads, and especially railroads

Natural Resources

- Abundant deposits of oil, coal, and iron fueled technological growth.
- In 1859, a steam engine was successfully used to drill for oil in Pennsylvania. This practical method of extracting oil led to an oil boom in Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Texas. The oil boom led to the rise of petroleum-refining industries in Cleveland and Pittsburgh.
- Coal production grew from 33 million tons in 1870 to more than 240 million tons in 1900.
- The Bessemer steel process was developed around 1850. This process extracts carbon and other impurities from iron ore to make steel, a lighter, more rust-resistant metal than iron.
- The steel industry provided the material for thousands of miles of railroad track. Steel also allowed new forms of construction such as skyscrapers and the Brooklyn Bridge.

Railroads

- In 1869, the first transcontinental railroad was completed. Government land grants and loans supported the completion of the railroad network.
- Railroads provided rapid transportation of people, raw materials, farm produce, and finished products. New towns sprang up and markets grew along railroad lines.
- Railroads had a great demand for iron, coal, steel, lumber, and glass, which fueled the growth of these industries.

Trade

- In the late 19th century, advances in technology led to overproduction in the United States. Farms and industry produced more products than American citizens could consume.
- The United States looked to foreign trade for raw materials for manufacturing and new markets for selling U.S. agricultural products and manufactured goods.