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8th Grade Social Studies

Growth of Industry
Honors Homework
Essential Questions #1

Name: _____
Period _____

Directions: Read the required pages and answer the questions as directed. Your answer should be three to four sentences long. Answer all the questions in the space provided below.

Read page 557 and answer the following question.

1. Explain how the growth of railroads helped to stimulate the American economy.

Read page 559 (Competing for customers) and answer the following question.

2. Explain how pools and trusts were used by railroad barons to limit competition. Explain who benefited and who was hurt by this system.

Read pages 564-566 (Henry Ford's Automobiles) and answer the following question.

3. Compare and contrast the production of the automobile before and after the invention of the assembly line or mass production.

Directions: Using the following passage and your own research answer the questions on the next page.

Inventions Change the Nations Economy

The Patent Office had never seen a year like 1897. An average of nearly 60 **patents**, or licenses for new inventions, were being generated every day. By year's end, Americans had registered some 21,000 patents. This was more than the total recorded in the entire 1850's.

The United States had become a land of invention. Between 1870 and 1900, patent officers issued more than 500,000 new patents. Some went to lone inventors like William Blackstone of Indiana. In 1874, he invented a machine that washed away dirt from clothes. It was the first washing machine designed for use in the home. Other inventors like the legendary Thomas Edison, filed patent request after patent request with the government. Thousands of inventions poured from his laboratory.

A flood of invention swept the United States in the late 1800's. Some inventions helped industry to grow and become more efficient, like the assembly line. Others made the daily life easier in many American homes. All of these inventions help stimulate the American economy and created new jobs. As people worked to buy the latest invention for their homes, businesses hired new workers who in turn bought many of the new products. The **assembly line** and **interchangeable parts** allowed products to be made faster and cheaper, leading to more buying power for consumers. Changes to the way Americans communicated allowed for products to be ordered from businesses far away, increasing competition and spurring growth. America was for the first time becoming a nation of consumers, and consumption helped lead to an economic boom.

4. In the sentence, "The **assembly line** and **interchangeable parts** allowed products to be made faster and cheaper, leading to more buying power for consumers." What do the phrases assembly line and interchangeable parts refer to.

5. Explain the cause and effect relationship between new inventions and the increased economic growth in the United States?
