

Explore More—How Places Change Over Time

Directions: Listen to your teacher talk about how places sometimes change over time. You will learn how Massachusetts changed when industry grew there. Circle any words you don't understand. Underline or highlight important ideas in the text. Write notes in the margins to help you understand key points. Then answer the questions in your own words.

What are some reasons a place may change over time?

There are many reasons a place may change over time. Natural disasters, such as earthquakes or hurricanes, can destroy an area and change the way of life of the people living there. People may move to an area to be close to the water, and then leave the area because the water destroyed their land. Industries can grow in an area, bringing both costs and benefits. The area may develop as more money is made, but the environment may be hurt by the pollution that industry creates. There are many external factors that change the advantages or disadvantages of a place over time.

How did industry change Massachusetts?

In 1800, the daily lives of people were almost the same as those of people during colonial times. Most people lived on farms, grew their own food, and made their own clothes. However, by 1890, things were different. Why? Many new inventions changed the way people lived. Some of the first inventions were used to make clothing, and some of the first textile mills were built along the rivers in Massachusetts. The rivers supplied the power for the factories. This location also was close to the Atlantic Ocean, which was good for shipping.

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In what ways did Massachusetts change?

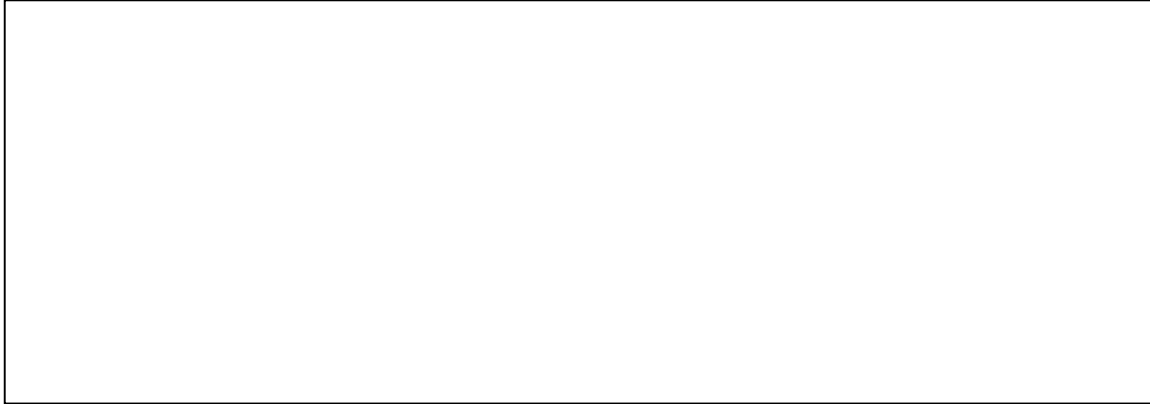
Cities began to develop around the mills. These cities became crowded with immigrants and settlers who left their farms to come and work in the factories.

The people who built the mills heard about the industrial towns in England that were crowded and dirty. The mill owners in Massachusetts said they wanted the towns around their mills to be good places to live. They built roads and planted shade trees. They built houses for the workers and their families. They also provided a fire engine, school, and library.

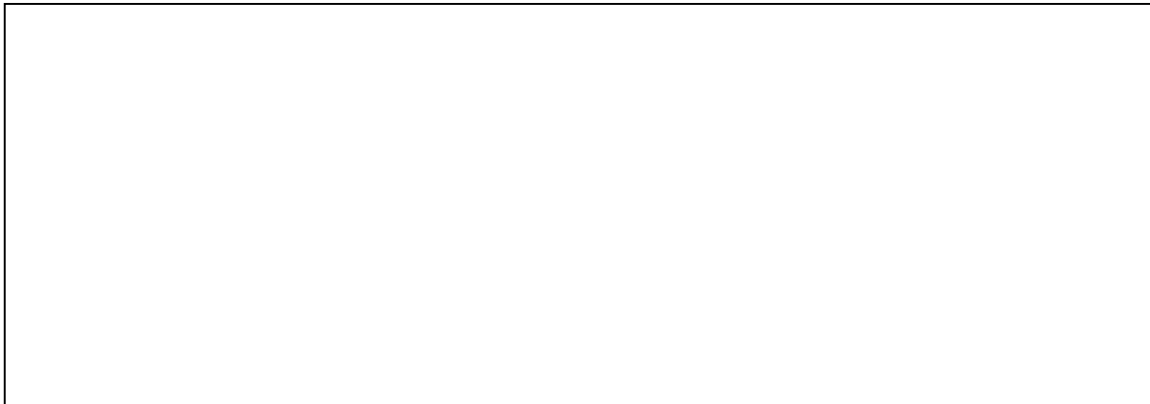
However, despite these efforts, industry did have a negative affect on the environment. Today, this continues to be an issue we struggle with. Industry can pollute the air we breathe and the water we drink. Is the benefit of industry worth the cost to the environment? ❖

YOUR TURN!

1. Draw a picture of a town in Massachusetts before industry grew there.



2. Draw a picture of a town in Massachusetts after industry grew there.



3. Research the city or town in which you live. Has this place changed over time? Why?
