

Virginia Studies VS.9

Virginia's Interconnection and Diversity- (new 2023 standards)

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VS.9A – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LATE 1800S VIRGINIA

a) Explain the importance of railroads, waterways, new industries, and the growth of cities to Virginia's economic development in the late 1800s.

From Farming to Industry

After the Civil War and Reconstruction, **Virginia began to change**. Instead of relying mostly on farming, the state started to grow through **industry and transportation**.

- **Railroads** were key. They **connected** parts of the state, carried **people** and **goods**, and helped towns grow into cities.
- **New industries**—such as **coal mining** in the southwest, cigarette factories in Richmond, and the **processing** of other **agricultural products** around the state—became major parts of the economy.
- **Waterways** continued to be important for trade and shipping, especially in coastal areas.



Railroad carries coal to Roanoke



Richmond streetcars

Growth of Cities

- With **new jobs** and **transportation** options, people moved from farms to towns and cities.
- **Mechanization of farming** (like using tractors) meant fewer workers were needed on farms.

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Questions: contact maria@solpass.org

- People moved to cities for better **job opportunities** in factories and other industries.
- Towns that were once small grew bigger, especially those along **railroad lines**.
- Norfolk and Newport News became **booming ports**. Hampton Roads became a **naval base**.

VS.9B – FROM RURAL TO URBAN LIFE

b) Explain the economic and social transition from a rural society to a more urban society.

Life in Rural Virginia

- Before the late 1800s, most Virginians lived in **rural areas** and worked as farmers.
- Life was simple, and people were spread out across the countryside.

During the early 20th century, agriculture began to change.

- **Mechanization** (the tractor) and improvements in **transportation** changed farming.
- Crop **prices** were low.

Transition to Urban Society

- **Urbanization** means people **moving to cities**, and that's exactly what started happening.



Richmond tobacco factory



Norfolk port

- Cities offered **jobs, schools, transportation**, and more social activities.
- Over time, Virginia became **less rural** and **more urban**.



A More Diverse and Connected Virginia

- In the 1900s and 2000s, Virginia **continued to change**:
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- **Northern Virginia** grew because of **federal government jobs**.
- Later, both Northern Virginia and the **Tidewater region** expanded due to **technology** (like computers and tech companies).
- People from other states and countries **moved to Virginia**, bringing **diversity** in **culture, language, and traditions**.