

THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL AMERICA

Reading Strategy

Identify Cause and Effect

Reading about history is often about finding the answers to two important questions: why did something happen, and what were the results of that event? The cause of an event is the reason that the event took place. The effect of an event is what resulted because of the event. Identifying the cause and effect of an event will help you understand how events are connected.

Read the following paragraph. Then, look at the information included in chart below:

Many large corporations began to dominate American business in the nineteenth century. The owners of these large corporations created monopolies, which sought to run smaller companies out of business. To answer the complaints of small business, in 1890 the federal government passed the Sherman Antitrust Act to outlaw monopolies and trusts. Although it had little initial effect, the act was used during the Progressive Era to combat corporate abuses of power.

Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890	
Cause	Effect
Large companies, or monopolies, dominated American business and harmed small businesses.	The act had little initial effect, but was useful during the Progressive Era to combat corporate abuses of power

Directions: Read the following paragraph. On a separate sheet of paper, create a chart like the one above to identify the cause and effect of the main event. Then, answer the questions below on the same sheet of paper.

Hint: Identify the main event in the paragraph by asking yourself, “What happened?” Then, determine what led to the event and what happened as a result of the event.

The United States experienced a period of industrial expansion in the nineteenth century. Abundant natural resources and a large immigrant labor force encouraged industrial development in the United States. The results of industrial expansion were both positive and negative. U.S. industrial expansion improved many people’s standard of living. However, industrial expansion also led to the growth of tenements.

1. What is the main event in the paragraph?
2. Why two causes led to the main event?
3. What are two effects of the main event?