

Internet Activity Presentation Planner
Introduction to Business
Chapter 3 Economic Activity in a Changing World

U.S. Economic History

In Chapter 3, you learned about the changes in the U.S. economic system. Each change has affected what was produced and how people were employed. These economic systems include periods of a service-based economy, an agriculture-based economy, an industry-based economy, and finally an information-based economy. Research these economic periods that have occurred throughout U.S. history and find out how they affected what was produced and how people worked. Produce and present a 10-minute talk about one of these economic eras.

Action Steps for Planning a Presentation

1. Get started by building background knowledge. Read newspaper articles, search the Internet, and make personal phone calls to local experts to understand the issues.
2. Decide on a specific topic. Narrow your focus to a topic that interests you.
3. Research your topic in greater depth. Use books, local media, the Internet, and personal interviews. Take detailed notes and maintain a bibliography as you review your notes and write an outline of your presentation.
4. Plan and create visual aids.
5. Write a draft of your presentation and practice it. Rewrite, practice again, and present.

1. Build Background Knowledge

Did You Know?

Think about these facts and consider what effects other economic periods had on the people of the United States.

- The industry-based economic period in the United States was one dominated by industry and the manufacture of industrial goods.
- Trade expansion was enabled by the introduction of canals, roads, and railways.
- Steam power and powered machinery underpinned the dramatic increases in production capacity.
- Factory owners benefited greatly by using young children and women to run machines during times of high labor demand.
- Legislation such as the Employment Act of 1946 made it government policy to “promote maximum employment, production, and purchasing power.”

Questions to Ponder

Think about these questions and how they may be relevant to the economic period you are covering.

1. From what economic period did this new era emerge?
2. What were the effects of the economic era on what was produced?
3. How were labor and employment affected by the economic period?
4. What were the effects on GDP, unemployment, and national debt?
5. How were things such as production capacity and product demand affected?

Key Search Words

Use these key words to search for Web sites that relate to your topic. List other key words you uncover in your search. Take notes about what you find and review your notes later as you narrow your topic.

U.S. economic history, Industrial Revolution, agriculture-based economy, service-based economy, information-based economy

Web Sites

Keep track of Web sites you use in your research so you can come back to them later and include them in your bibliography. List their URLs here.

2. Decide on Your Topic

Narrow Your Focus

Complete the following flow chart to narrow your topic. Choose a subject that interests you and that will also interest your audience. Write a title and a sentence or two about your talk and ask your teacher to approve it or suggest changes.

Industry-Based Economy > Production of Industrial Goods > Effect on GDP, Employment Rates, National Debt > _____ > _____

Title: _____

Description: _____

Approval: _____ Date: _____
(Teacher's Signature)

3. Conduct Research

Maintain a Bibliography

In addition to Web sites you use in your research, list books and periodicals you consult, and contact information for experts you interview.

Books

4. Write an Outline

Main Ideas and Details

Review your notes and think through the main ideas and details you want to include in your presentation. Put the main ideas in a logical order and list them in outline form as major headings. Include at least two details under each main idea.

I. Introduction

A. _____

B. _____

II. Main Idea

A. _____

B. _____

III. Main Idea

A. _____

B. _____

IV. Main Idea

A. _____

B. _____

V. Conclusion

A. _____

B. _____

