

Workbook Exercises

Chapter Six: Farms, Towns, and Industries

NEW WORDS

Speculator (SPECK-you-lay-ter) A person who takes business risks in order to make a big profit. Speculators buy something when it is cheap and hope to sell it later when it is worth more. They also buy cheap by buying large quantities of something, such as land, and then sell it in smaller units at a higher price per unit than they paid for it. Speculating can be risky. Sometimes prices go down instead of up and the speculator loses money.

Surveyor (Ser-VAY er) A person who measures land distances and elevations, especially for use in setting boundaries, laying out construction, and map-making.

Rebellion (Re-BELL-yun) In war, an uprising against rulers-the same meaning as the word revolution, as noted on page 8. Usually, though, rebellion describes a failed uprising, while a revolution is a successful uprising. As used in the phrase “Whiskey Rebellion,” it means something a little less severe than a war; it means an act of resistance to authority. But it, too, failed. Government troops put an end to it.

Industry (IN-dust-ree) The manufacture or production of goods or services for sale. Saltmaking for personal use is not an industry. Salt-making to supply markets throughout the country is an industry.

Resource (RE-sorse) Something that can be turned to for support or help; a supply of something that can be used when needed. Natural resources are things like coal and timber. Western Virginia was “rich in natural resources.” It had a lot of coal, oil, natural gas, iron, timber, and salt.

Turnpike A road that travelers are charged money to use. Usually, turnpikes have tollgates where drivers stop and pay. In the 1800s when roads were being built in western Virginia, the turnpike fees helped pay their cost. They were called turnpikes because a swing barrier, called a pike, was placed across the road. When the fee, or toll, was paid, the pike was “turned” aside to let the traveler proceed.

FILL IN THE BLANKS Use the new words above to complete these sentences:

1. When the government started taxing whiskey, a violent _____ took place. Farmers didn't want to pay.
2. The salt _____ was one of the first to develop in western Virginia.
3. In western Virginia, a _____ might buy hundreds of acres of land, hoping to sell it later at a big profit.
4. A landowner would hire a _____ to mark off boundaries and make maps of his land.

5. The cost of building roads was paid by charging _____ fees.
6. Coal is a major _____ of West Virginia.

MORE ABOUT... The Salt Industry

White settlers were not the first to process salt. Native Americans had done it for centuries before. In what is now central West Virginia, there were many salt springs that contained a mixture of salt and water, called brine. The springs were called “salt licks” because animals traveled to them to lick up the salt. Salt is a mineral that is necessary for animal and human life. By following the animals, the Native Americans found the salt they needed. They discovered how to boil the brine so that the water steamed off, leaving the pure salt. They used salt for trading and as a form of money.

One of the largest salt licks was near the Kanawha River at what is now the town of Maiden. A white settler named Elisha Brooks set up his factory there in 1797. There is a picture of the Maiden salt works in Chapter 6 of the **History** book. When it first started, it produced 150 pounds of coarse salt per day, which was sold for 10 cents per pound. By the mid-1800s, West Virginia was producing over three million bushels of salt annually.

West Virginia’s early salt industry helped other industries to develop. Coal was needed to heat the brine. Boats were needed to ship the salt to markets. Barrels were needed to store the salt. So the salt industry helped develop the coal industry, the boat-building industry, and the barrel-making industry.