18-1 – The Second Industrial Revolution- Pages 574-578

Essential Question: How did the Second Industrial Revolution lead to new sources of power and advances in transportation and communication?

Main Idea 1:

Breakthroughs in steel processing led to a boom in railroad construction.

- Technological advances important to Second Industrial Revolution: period of rapid growth in U.S. manufacturing in late 1800s
 - Henry Bessemer developed a way to make steel quickly and cheaply.
 - Called the Bessemer process, invented mid-1850s
 - Helped increase steel production from 77,000 tons in 1870 to more than 1 million tons in 1879
- As steel dropped in price, so did the cost of building railroads, generating a boom in railroad construction.
- The railroad industry had increased productivity due to new steel technologies.
 - Growth of railroads helped country expand and prosper



Main Idea 2:

Advances in the use of oil and electricity improved communications and transportation.

- Chemists invented a way to convert crude oil into fuel called kerosene in the 1850s.
- Kerosene, which could be used for cooking, heating, and lighting, created a demand for oil.
- A huge oil industry developed after a way to pump oil from the ground was developed in 1859.
- The discovery of a reliable source of oil led to the development of the oil industry.

Development of Electricity

Invention

- Inventor Thomas Edison, who held more than 1,000 patents, worked to invent an electric light.
- Thomas Edison is attributed with the invention of the light bulb.
- Edison and his team introduced the first practical electric light bulb in 1879.



Spread

- Edison created a power company to distribute electricity, but could not send it over long distances.
- George Westinghouse built a power system that could send electricity many miles across the country.

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Main Idea 3:

A rush of inventions changed the lives of Americans.

- New telegraph technology connected the United States with Britain by cable in 1866.
- Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone in 1876.
- Telephones were rapidly adopted, the number rising from 55,000 in 1880 to almost 1.5 million in 1900.
- George Westinghouse improved air brakes for trains, which helped to increase the safety of railroad travel.
- Henry Ford introduced the Model T in 1908.
 - Was the first to use the moving assembly line.
 - Reduced the cost to build a car
 - Cars became more affordable.
- Wilbur and Orville Wright invented the airplane, which revolutionized travel in the United States and caused further improvements to be made in the travel industry.

