

Summary: Change in Chattanooga

Chattanooga's Early Years

The lands near the Tennessee River were once part of the Cherokee and Creek Indian nations. John Ross, a Cherokee chief, set up a trading post there called Ross's Landing. People traded things they made or grew for goods brought in by traders. The area became a busy town. People named the town Chattanooga.

Soon new inventions and technology changed Chattanooga. A railroad connected the town to other railroads across the country. Railroad trains brought new business, people, and goods to Chattanooga. The town grew. Another new technology was the telephone. It made communication easier and faster for the people in Chattanooga.

Factories in Chattanooga

Chattanooga kept changing and growing over the years. Factories that used electric power were built. Many different kinds of products were made in the factories, such as carpet, yarn, building materials, machinery, and car engines. The factories and mills polluted the air and water in the city. The people in Chattanooga worked together to clean up the pollution.

Today, Chattanooga is the fourth largest city in Tennessee. Music, arts, and education are an important part of the city. Cars have replaced trains as the major form of transportation. But factories keep the city's economy strong.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

technology *noun*, the use of science and tools to make new things or to help things work better

communication *noun*, any way in which people exchange information



After You Read

REVIEW In what ways did technology change Chattanooga during the 1880s? Highlight the sentences that tell what the railroad did. Circle the sentence that tells what the telephone did for the people of the town.

REVIEW What problem did Chattanooga eventually face? Underline two sentences that tell about a problem and what the people did to fix it.