New York City Expands

Building Upward
As New York City’s population grew, people needed more space to live and work. To make the most of the city’s space, New Yorkers decided to build taller buildings.

New Technology
New technology helped New Yorkers build more space to live and work. In the 1800s, steel building frames and safer elevators made it possible to construct skyscrapers.

Improving the City
Living conditions in the city improved in the 1800s and 1900s. A new subway system eased street traffic. Sewers carried away waste, and pipes, tunnels, and reservoirs supplied clean water. Laws made crowded, unsafe tenements safer. To fight disease, officials made sure trash was picked up and that food was safe.

Working in New York
Many people who worked in factories had to work long hours in dangerous conditions for low pay. New laws protected child workers. Workers also formed labor unions. Some members of labor unions went on strike to gain better working conditions, an increase in pay, and shorter workdays.

How did the subway improve city life? Circle the sentence that tells the answer.

Why did some workers go on strike? Highlight the sentence that tells the answer.

After You Read

SKILL Reading Charts
Which improvement eased street traffic? Underline the correct answer in the chart.