

Name:

Date:

York Plan

Webquest for Middle and High Schoolers

Introduction: America's success on the battlefield during World War II was in large part due to industry on the homefront. Large and small factories around the nation switched to wartime production to get the vital arms and equipment to our military forces. The York Plan with its motto, "to do what we can with what we have," was instrumental in demonstrating how smaller businesses could work together collectively using manpower and equipment to acquire and to fulfill large military contracts.

Curriculum Connections: This activity activates critical thinking skills, reading comprehension, text-based analysis, and outside research exposure. Students will pace through the virtual exhibit, looking at pictures and reading descriptions to answer questions and reflect. The questions are best suited for secondary education students.

Instructions:

1. Go to the online exhibit at the York County History Center's website.
<https://www.yorkhistorycenter.org/york-pa-museums/the-york-plan>
2. Use this worksheet as a guide to help you explore more about York County's industry during WWII.
3. When you get to the black bars on this worksheet, make sure to follow the instructions closely. Record your answer to the questions in the white boxes below it.

First Page: Read the summary of the York Plan

1. What organization created the York Plan?
2. Select 3 principles of the York Plan that you think are most important and explain why?
3. Why was the York Plan model for industry game changing for areas like York County?

4. What did the “E” in the Army-Navy “E” Award stand for? What percentage of companies earned this prestigious award?

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Army-Navy_%22E%22_Award

5. How many companies participated in the York Plan?

Scroll down to the York Plan Story Map. Start with the A. B. Farquhar Co. and proceed through the different companies.

6. During peacetime, what did the A. B. Farquhar Co. produce? What did they complete as a rush order in February 1944?

7. What did the Alloy Rods Company produce? What were they used for?

8. What did ACCO stand for? In addition to chains, how many cotter pins did they produce?

9. Look at the picture displayed with the Blue Bird Silk Mfg. Co., Inc., what do you think the plane is doing? Would you want to be the pilot?

10. What was the main product of the Blaw-Knox Co.?

Learn more & see it in action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByJbinkiZ9U>

11. What did the Dentists' Supply Co. of New York produce? How many did they produce?

12. The General Electric Co. made a specially insulated lead wire for use in what?

13. George F. Motter's Sons, home of the York County History Center's Agricultural and Industrial Museum, was a _____, creating parts for numerous other companies?

14. Hanover Wire Cloth Co. produced a fine mesh cloth of what material for use in the Manhattan Project? What was the Manhattan Project?

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/the-manhattan-project>

15. What did the H. J. Freezer Co. produce? What was it the first in the country to do?

16. What did the Joseph Black and Sons Co. produce? How many pairs did they make for the armed services during WWII?
17. The Keystone Roofing Mfg. Co. produced how many square feet of waterproof paper? This was equivalent to a six-foot wide strip encircling what?
18. The New York Wire Cloth Co. filled the vast demand for what product?
19. The Read Machinery Company, Inc., manufactured equipment to furnish bakery products to feed how many people daily?
20. The S. Morgan Smith Co. built hydropneumatic catapults for launching Navy planes from decks of aircraft carriers. See it in action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fx7Gto1zrrg>. They also produced the 240 mm Howitzer M1, the most powerful weapon deployed by US field artillery units during World War II. What was its nickname?
See it in action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34d38hnRObs>
21. Weaver Piano Co., Inc. noted for using a plastic-plyboard mix to reduce weight, created a new version of the soldier's pack-board that weighed ____ pounds instead of the old one which weighed a whopping ____ pounds. These pack-boards were produced by _____ after being designed by Weaver.
22. What was the price of the packages of candy the York Caramel Co. included in K-rations? Learn more about K-rations: <http://www.kration.info/>
23. What well known candy was originally made by the York Cone Co.?
24. What did the York Corporation produce? What was the name of their chairman that helped organize the York Plan?
25. The York Safe & Lock Co.'s most noteworthy achievement? They subcontracted with how many companies?

Summary Reflection

26. What impact did the York Plan have on York County's economy during WWII?

27. What impact did the York Plan have on the US military?



28. How does this illustration reflect changes in the workforce?