



Immediately after World War One, America went through a short economic slump as 5 million soldiers returned home from Europe looking for work. By 1922 however, the economy had bounced back with the help of one key invention. “Why on earth do you need to study what is changing this country?” one man asked experts. “I can tell you what is happening in 4 letters A-U-T-O.” Car prices fell because factories had become more efficient with the adaptation of the assembly line by Henry Ford allowing them to mass produce the automobile. The price of his Model T (shown above) dropped from \$880 to \$290 in the space of about six months. Soon other industries boomed because of the car craze. For example, in 1920, there were 1,500 gas stations in America. By 1929 there were 120,000.

1. What force, found in nature, is helping these men build this car?
2. What do we call a short economic slump? Why did America experience an economic downturn after WWI?
3. Why were car prices falling in the 1920's?
4. What were two industries (other than people who make parts for a car) that were helped by the auto industry boom?
5. What do you think are one advantage and one disadvantage of working on an assembly line?