SS.912.A.3.1 - Challenges to American Farmers – Example 4 Answer

In the late 1800s, how did railroad monopolies create economic hardships for farmers?

A. By claiming productive land for business leaders to develop
B. By charging high prices to ship agricultural goods to market
C. By separating farmers from profitable markets in western cities
D. By isolating farmers from technological developments in eastern cities

Answer

B. by charging high prices to ship agricultural goods to market

A monopoly implied that there was no other way to ship the goods to market, thus the Railroads could charge whatever they liked. The rates were so high that farmers made almost no profit because of their payments to the railroads.