Beyond City Limits

Trace how outward growth changes a region

SS24.HG.11 "Analyze how the economic and cultural activities of urban places shape surrounding regions. 11a Explain how urban sprawl affects a city, the communities around it, and the natural environment."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two choices that push development outward. Circle one effect on the city, one on nearby communities, and one on the natural environment, then label them C, N, and E.

Changes Around Bellport

1 In the fictional city of Bellport, a hospital district and music venues draw workers and visitors from nearby towns. As jobs multiply, some households seek larger homes beyond the city, where land costs less. Developers build subdivisions and shopping centers along a highway, and employers open offices near its exits. This outward spread of buildings and roads is urban sprawl. A nurse who once rode the city bus now drives between a new neighborhood and the hospital. The city still benefits from her work, but her longer trip adds traffic to streets that were already crowded.

2 Bellport's older commercial streets face a mixed result. Families from the new subdivisions may visit weekend concerts downtown, supporting restaurants and performers. Yet stores near the highway draw shoppers away from small city businesses. City leaders must maintain busy roads while some retail sales and property taxes move to surrounding towns. In those towns, construction creates jobs and expands the tax base, which can help pay for services. Growth also brings traffic to narrow local roads and raises demand for schools and water systems. Residents who work on farms may find that farmland is sold for housing.

3 Before the new roads, rain soaked into fields outside Bellport. Parking lots and roofs now send more runoff toward streams, sometimes carrying oil and sediment. Lost fields and fragmented habitat leave less room for wildlife. Sprawl does not affect everyone the same way: a suburban family may gain space, while a resident without a car may find highway shops hard to reach. Bellport and nearby towns could coordinate housing near bus routes and protect streamside land. Those choices would not stop every new building, but they could reduce driving and limit damage as the region grows.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could Bellport's hospital jobs change travel in both the city and nearby towns?

2. Why might highway development bring a nearby town both a benefit and a cost?

3. Trace two ways that building on fields outside Bellport could affect the natural environment.

4. Why might downtown concerts support some Bellport businesses while other city businesses lose customers?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a city where a college stadium draws visitors and new homes and shops are proposed on fields beside a highway outside town. In 4 to 5 sentences, predict an effect on the city, a nearby community, and the natural environment, then recommend one planning choice and explain a trade-off.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two choices that push development outward. Circle one effect on the city, one on nearby communities, and one on the natural environment, then label them C, N, and E. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could Bellport's hospital jobs change travel in both the city and nearby towns?	**Hospital jobs draw workers from nearby towns. As some workers move into new subdivisions, they drive into Bellport, adding traffic to city streets and roads between the towns.**
2	Why might highway development bring a nearby town both a benefit and a cost?	**Construction and new businesses can create jobs and expand the town's tax base. The town may also face more traffic and greater demand for schools and water systems.**
3	Trace two ways that building on fields outside Bellport could affect the natural environment.	**Roofs and pavement increase runoff that can carry oil and sediment into streams. Building on fields also removes or fragments wildlife habitat.**
4	Why might downtown concerts support some Bellport businesses while other city businesses lose customers?	**Concert visitors may spend money at downtown restaurants, while shoppers may choose stores near the highway instead of small city shops.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The stadium may bring visitors to city restaurants, but shops beside the highway could pull some customers away. The nearby town could gain tax revenue from new homes and stores while paying to expand its roads and schools. Paving fields could increase runoff into local streams and shrink wildlife habitat. I would cluster new housing near a bus route and keep land beside the stream undeveloped. This could protect the water and reduce driving, although builders would have less land to use.

Accept other evidence-based effects and trade-offs that follow from the passage or the new scenario. For the marking job, students may choose different valid causes and effects.