# Beyond the City

Trace the effects of outward growth

**SS24.HG.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 a cause and its effect for each place affected by sprawl, then label the three underlined pairs C for city, S for surrounding community, and N for natural environment.

### Bellford Grows Outward

1 When the city of Bellford gained new residents, builders began putting houses on inexpensive land beyond its older neighborhoods. This outward spread of low-density development is called urban sprawl. Families gained larger yards and new homes, but many destinations were far apart. Because stores, jobs, and schools were difficult to reach on foot, more residents drove each day. Traffic backed up on roads leading into Bellford, adding time to commutes for people who still worked downtown. The city had to extend water pipes, sewer lines, and roads across a wider area, which increased the cost of providing services.

2 Bellford's growth also crossed the boundaries of surrounding towns. A new subdivision near the town of Ash Glen brought customers to its grocery stores and more children to its schools. Some local businesses benefited, while the school district faced pressure to add classrooms and buses. Traffic on a two-lane road through Ash Glen grew as new residents traveled to jobs in Bellford. Farmers nearby received offers to sell their land for housing, which could raise their income but reduce the land available for farming. Decisions made at Bellford's edge therefore reached people who did not live in the city.

3 Beyond the new subdivision, builders cleared part of a wooded area and paved ground for streets and driveways. Fewer trees meant less habitat for birds and less shade on hot days. Rain that once soaked into the soil flowed faster across pavement, carrying dirt and oil toward a nearby stream. More driving also produced more air pollution. Bellford's leaders considered allowing smaller homes and shops on vacant lots within the existing city instead of approving every proposed subdivision. That choice could protect some undeveloped land, although fitting new buildings into older neighborhoods might require difficult changes to streets and utilities.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did building homes farther apart affect travel in Bellford and the city's cost of providing services?

2. How did the subdivision create both an opportunity and a strain for Ash Glen?

3. Why could Bellford's expansion change farming outside the city, even if farmers chose to sell their land?

4. Explain two ways construction of the subdivision affected the natural environment. Include the cause of each effect.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A city needs a new public library. Leaders could renovate an empty storefront near city bus stops or build on a meadow beside a neighboring town. In 4 to 5 sentences, choose a site and explain one likely effect on the city, one on the neighboring town, and one on the natural environment, plus one trade-off.

ANSWER KEY

# Beyond the City

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.HG.11a

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a cause and its effect for each place affected by sprawl, then label the three underlined pairs C for city, S for surrounding community, and N for natural environment. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did building homes farther apart affect travel in Bellford and the city's cost of providing services? | **More residents drove to reach destinations, increasing traffic and commute times. Extending pipes and roads across a wider area increased service costs.** |
| 2 | How did the subdivision create both an opportunity and a strain for Ash Glen? | **New customers benefited local stores, but more students strained the school district, and more traffic crowded a two-lane road.** |
| 3 | Why could Bellford's expansion change farming outside the city, even if farmers chose to sell their land? | **Farmers could earn money by selling land for housing, but the sale would reduce the land available for farming.** |
| 4 | Explain two ways construction of the subdivision affected the natural environment. Include the cause of each effect. | **Clearing trees reduced bird habitat and shade. Paving ground increased runoff that carried dirt and oil toward the stream.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would renovate the empty storefront near city bus stops. City residents could reach the library without adding as many car trips to crowded roads. The neighboring town might receive fewer library visitors than it would if the library were built beside it. Keeping the meadow intact would preserve habitat and let rain soak into the soil. Renovating an older storefront might cost more than building a new library.

Accept other passage-supported cause-and-effect explanations. For Part 3, accept either site if the response gives plausible effects on all three places and identifies a trade-off.