Chicago Grows Fast

Trace the causes and consequences of urban growth

SS24.US1.17 "Analyze the push and pull factors contributing to the rapid growth of cities in the United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. 17a Summarize social, economic..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons people left home, circle two job opportunities that drew people to Chicago, and number two different responses to city problems 1 and 2. Use your marks to connect the causes of growth with its effects.

A City of New Arrivals

1 At Chicago's train stations around 1905, newcomers arrived with bags and hopes for wages. Mechanized farming and scarce land pushed some rural Americans toward cities, while poverty and persecution drove many people from southern and eastern Europe. Jobs in factories, rail yards, and meatpacking plants pulled migrants to Chicago. Polish and Italian immigrants often settled near people who spoke their languages and could help them find work. Churches, newspapers, and shops helped these neighborhoods preserve traditions. Children attended public schools, learned English, and sometimes adopted customs their parents did not share.

2 A paycheck did not guarantee comfort. Crowded apartment buildings sometimes lacked clean water, safe stairs, or adequate ventilation. In meatpacking plants, long shifts and dangerous machinery threatened workers. Industrial growth also enlarged a wage-earning working class and a middle class of clerks, managers, and shopkeepers. These groups had different incomes and choices about where to live. Streetcars connected some neighborhoods to downtown stores and parks, although fares cost money. On days off, families might visit amusement parks or watch baseball. Such leisure offered pleasure, but unequal wages limited who could afford it.

3 Chicago's growth also sparked opposing responses. Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr founded Hull House in 1889, offering classes and child care to neighbors, including immigrants. Labor unions organized workers to demand safer conditions and better pay. Other Americans blamed immigrants for crowded housing and job competition, even though factory growth and too little affordable housing also shaped those problems. The Immigration Restriction League, a national organization, pressed for literacy tests to limit arrivals. Reformers argued that services and workplace protections could address urban problems. Restrictionists sought to reduce immigration instead, revealing a struggle over who could share the city's opportunities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did one reason for leaving home and one opportunity in Chicago work together to increase the city's population?

2. How did industrial growth change people's working lives and their opportunities for leisure? Explain one difference between the working and middle classes.

3. How could a Polish or Italian immigrant family in Chicago preserve traditions while its children adopted new customs?

4. How did Hull House and the Immigration Restriction League respond differently to challenges linked to urban growth and immigration?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

As a Chicago neighborhood reporter in 1910, write a 6- to 8-sentence brief that connects why people arrived to changes in work, housing, or leisure. Compare a reform response with a restrictionist response, then recommend one practical improvement. Use at least three details from the passage, but make your own case rather than copying its sentences.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.17

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons people left home, circle two job opportunities that drew people to Chicago, and number two different responses to city problems 1 and 2. Use your marks to connect the causes of growth with its effects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did one reason for leaving home and one opportunity in Chicago work together to increase the city's population?	**For example, poverty pushed some people from southern and eastern Europe, while Chicago's factory jobs drew them to the city.**
2	How did industrial growth change people's working lives and their opportunities for leisure? Explain one difference between the working and middle classes.	**Industrial growth created jobs but exposed some workers to long shifts and dangerous machinery. Baseball and amusement parks offered leisure, but lower wages made paid outings harder for working-class families than for middle-class families.**
3	How could a Polish or Italian immigrant family in Chicago preserve traditions while its children adopted new customs?	**Families could keep traditions through neighborhood churches, newspapers, and shops. Children could learn English and adopt new customs at public school.**
4	How did Hull House and the Immigration Restriction League respond differently to challenges linked to urban growth and immigration?	**Hull House offered classes and child care to help neighbors, including immigrants. The Immigration Restriction League sought literacy tests to limit the number of new arrivals.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Chicago's rail yards and meatpacking plants draw newcomers seeking wages, including families escaping poverty in Europe. In Polish and Italian neighborhoods, familiar shops and churches help people settle while children learn English at school. But the pay can come with dangerous machines and crowded housing. Families may enjoy baseball on days off, yet low wages make leisure harder to afford. Hull House offers classes and child care, while restrictionists seek literacy tests that would keep some newcomers out. Turning people away will not repair unsafe workplaces. The city should inspect factory machinery and enforce safety rules so new and longtime workers both benefit.

Accept other passage-supported push and pull factors and accurate comparisons. In the brief, look for a causal connection, at least three passage details, contrasting responses, and a practical recommendation.