

Games and Growth

Evaluate immediate and lasting effects of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

SS8H12.c "Evaluate the short-term and long-term impacts of hosting the 1996 Olympics on Georgia's economic and population growth."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each short-term impact, circle each long-term impact, and write E beside economic effects or P beside population effects. This will help you compare how the Games affected Georgia over different lengths of time.

Atlanta After the Flame

- ① In summer 1996, Atlanta hosted athletes and visitors from around the world for the Centennial Olympic Games. Georgia spent years preparing. Public agencies and private businesses improved some streets, built or upgraded venues, and prepared places for visitors. During the event, hotels, restaurants, shops, transportation services, and construction companies gained customers or contracts. The Games also created temporary work connected to building, security, food, and events. These effects happened quickly, but many did not last after the closing ceremony.
- ② Hosting the Olympics gave Atlanta international attention. Television coverage showed the city to potential tourists, students, companies, and meeting planners. After 1996, leaders could use that visibility when attracting visitors and investment. Some Olympic sites gained new purposes. Centennial Olympic Park became a downtown public space, and several athlete-housing buildings were used by nearby colleges after the Games. Such lasting places could support later tourism, events, and neighborhood activity. Still, turning Olympic spending into long-term growth required planning and continued investment.
- ③ Georgia's population had already been growing before 1996, especially in the Atlanta metropolitan area. The Olympics did not alone cause that growth. However, a stronger tourism industry, new business interest, improved downtown spaces, and jobs could make the region more attractive to people considering a move. Long-term population growth also depended on housing, schools, transportation, and the wider economy. To evaluate the Games fairly, separate immediate effects, such as temporary jobs and visitor spending, from later effects, such as reuse of sites and possible attraction of residents.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two short-term economic impacts of hosting the Olympics.

2 How could worldwide television coverage lead to a long-term economic impact for Atlanta?

3 Why is the reuse of Olympic sites a long-term impact rather than a short-term impact?

4 Why should historians avoid saying that the Olympics alone caused Georgia's population growth?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence evaluation of the 1996 Olympics' impact on Georgia. Include one short-term economic effect, one possible long-term effect, and a statement that explains why population growth had more than one cause.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each short-term impact, circle each long-term impact, and write E beside economic effects or P beside population effects. This will help you compare how the Games affected Georgia over different lengths of time. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two short-term economic impacts of hosting the Olympics.	Businesses such as hotels, restaurants, shops, transportation services, and construction companies gained customers or contracts. The Games also created temporary work.
2	How could worldwide television coverage lead to a long-term economic impact for Atlanta?	International visibility could help leaders attract later visitors and investment.
3	Why is the reuse of Olympic sites a long-term impact rather than a short-term impact?	The sites were used after the Games, and they could support later tourism, events, college use, and neighborhood activity.
4	Why should historians avoid saying that the Olympics alone caused Georgia's population growth?	Georgia's population was already growing before 1996, and long-term growth also depended on housing, schools, transportation, and the wider economy.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The 1996 Olympics helped Georgia's economy in the short term, but its effect on population growth was indirect. During the Games, visitor spending and temporary work benefited businesses and workers. Later, Centennial Olympic Park and reused housing could support tourism and neighborhood activity, while housing, schools, transportation, and the wider economy also shaped population growth.

Accept equivalent effects and cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. In the open response, look for a clear comparison of short-term and long-term impacts plus a qualified claim about population growth.