London Under Pressure

How rapid growth changed a city

6-9.WH.2.9 "Explain how the rapid growth of cities can lead to economic, social, political, and technological problems and innovations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one problem caused by rapid growth in each paragraph, then circle a response to that problem. Give each problem and its response the same number to show the connection.

When London Grew Fast

(1) In the 1800s, London grew rapidly as people moved in for work. Ships brought goods to its docks, and workshops and factories hired workers to make and move products. More customers also meant more chances for small shops to earn money. But the number of people looking for jobs could grow faster than the number of openings. Some workers faced low pay or uncertain work. Crowded streets slowed the delivery of goods. To help workers and customers cross the crowded city, London opened the world's first underground passenger railway in 1863.

(2) Rapid growth also packed families into small rooms, especially near jobs. Many homes lacked safe drinking water or proper toilets. Waste flowed into the River Thames, which supplied some Londoners with water. Cholera outbreaks killed thousands; the disease spreads through water contaminated by human waste, not by bad smells. Families who could afford to move often left the most crowded areas, while poorer families had fewer choices. Reformers used reports about living conditions to demand cleaner water and better housing, turning a social problem into a call for change.

(3) By the summer of 1858, waste in the Thames made the river smell so foul that even members of Parliament nearby struggled to work. This crisis, called the Great Stink, pushed lawmakers to fund a new sewer system. Engineer Joseph Bazalgette designed a network that carried much of the city's wastewater away from central London. Building it required new pumping stations and miles of large underground pipes. The system did not solve every health problem, but it reduced waste in crowded neighborhoods. A fast-growing city had forced political decisions and engineering changes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did London's growth create both an economic opportunity and an economic problem?

2. How did crowded living conditions lead people to call for social change?

3. How did a problem linked to London's growth lead to a political decision in 1858?

4. How did the new sewer system use technology to address a problem made worse by rapid growth?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a different city where new warehouses attract thousands of residents in one year. In four or five sentences, explain one economic opportunity, one social problem, one political response, and one technological innovation that could result from this growth. Show how each connects to the rising population.

ANSWER KEY

London Under Pressure

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WH.2.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one problem caused by rapid growth in each paragraph, then circle a response to that problem. Give each problem and its response the same number to show the connection. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did London's growth create both an economic opportunity and an economic problem?	**More customers gave small shops a chance to earn money, but job seekers could outnumber openings, leaving some workers with low pay or uncertain work.**
2	How did crowded living conditions lead people to call for social change?	**Families lived in small rooms, and many lacked safe water or proper toilets. Reformers used reports about these conditions to demand cleaner water and better housing.**
3	How did a problem linked to London's growth lead to a political decision in 1858?	**Waste in the Thames caused the Great Stink, which disrupted Parliament's work and pushed lawmakers to fund a new sewer system.**
4	How did the new sewer system use technology to address a problem made worse by rapid growth?	**Pumping stations and large underground pipes carried much of London's wastewater away from its crowded central areas.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

As more residents buy food, neighborhood markets could hire workers and earn more money. The arrival of many families could raise rents and force some neighbors to share small apartments. In response, the city council could fund affordable homes. Engineers could also install traffic signals that adjust to crowded intersections, helping buses carry the growing population.

For the marking job, accept any three passage-supported problem and response pairs, one from each paragraph. For Part 3, accept plausible ideas that explain how population growth causes an opportunity or problem and leads to political and technological responses.