Valley on the Move

Read map descriptions to trace growth, jobs, and migration.

8.G.4 "Using maps, identify changes influenced by growth, economic development, and human migration in the United States."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two changes between the described 1950 and 2020 maps, and circle the direction of each change. Write J beside a map clue linked to jobs and M beside one linked to migration.

How Las Vegas Spread

1. A map can record where people build. A description of a 1950 map of the Las Vegas Valley places the main built-up area around downtown Las Vegas. Open desert separates downtown from smaller settlements farther south and east. A description of a 2020 map shows a much wider area of streets and buildings. Neighborhoods spread west toward Summerlin, north into North Las Vegas, and southeast toward Henderson. These map descriptions show a shift from a compact city to a connected urban region.

2. The maps show where development occurred, but not why. Historical records add a clue: hotels and casinos expanded along the Strip, a road south of downtown, as tourism became a major industry. By 2020, the resort corridor had far more large buildings than it did in 1950. Construction, hospitality, and other services created jobs. New roads and neighborhoods grew around this work. On a map, the expanding street network links economic development on the Strip to growth across the valley.

3. People also moved to the valley from other parts of the United States. Some came for jobs; others came for retirement or family. Their arrival helped increase demand for homes beyond the old downtown area. The 2020 map description shows that neighborhoods reach west toward Summerlin and southeast toward Henderson, where fewer streets appeared on the 1950 map. This pattern is consistent with population growth and migration. Still, a map cannot tell which residents moved from elsewhere or exactly why they came.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the built-up area change between the described 1950 and 2020 maps? Name two directions in which it spread.

2. Where did tourism-related development expand in relation to downtown, and what change in buildings would the maps show there?

3. Which change in the map descriptions might migration help explain? What can a map not tell you about the people living there?

4. How do the map descriptions and historical records together link growth along the Strip to growth elsewhere in the valley?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Suppose a new factory opens east of Henderson and workers move to the valley from other states. In three or four sentences, describe two changes a 2040 map might show, including their direction from downtown, and explain how jobs and migration could cause them. State one thing the map alone could not prove.

ANSWER KEY

Valley on the Move

GRADE 8 · 8.G.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two changes between the described 1950 and 2020 maps, and circle the direction of each change. Write J beside a map clue linked to jobs and M beside one linked to migration. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the built-up area change between the described 1950 and 2020 maps? Name two directions in which it spread.	**It grew from a compact area around downtown into a wider urban region. It spread in at least two of these directions: west, north, and southeast.**
2	Where did tourism-related development expand in relation to downtown, and what change in buildings would the maps show there?	**It expanded along the Strip, south of downtown. By 2020, that corridor had far more large buildings than it did in 1950.**
3	Which change in the map descriptions might migration help explain? What can a map not tell you about the people living there?	**Migration might help explain the new neighborhoods toward Summerlin or Henderson. A map cannot show which residents moved from elsewhere or why they came.**
4	How do the map descriptions and historical records together link growth along the Strip to growth elsewhere in the valley?	**The maps show more large buildings along the Strip and a wider network of roads and neighborhoods. Historical records explain that tourism and related work created jobs that helped drive this growth.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A 2040 map might show more streets and homes southeast of downtown, near Henderson. It might also show new roads extending farther east toward the factory. Factory jobs could attract workers from other states, increasing demand for housing and roads. The map alone could not prove why people moved there.

Accept other directions named in the passage for question 1 and either neighborhood area for question 3. For Your Turn, accept reasonable predicted map changes that connect the factory, jobs, and migration while recognizing a limit of map evidence.