# Where People Go

Population change reshapes places and public choices.

**GHW.12.2** "Explain the concepts of depopulation, steady, accelerating and exponential growth and apply these concepts to geographical/spatial themes while analyzing the consequences of various human responses."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline evidence of four different population paths. Circle two human responses, then write the same number beside each response and one consequence linked to it.

### Four Places, Changing Populations

1 In a hypothetical region, four places face different population paths. In Harbor Village, the number of residents falls each year as young adults leave for work. This is depopulation, not simply a small population. A school may close when too few children enroll, making the village less attractive to families who remain. In Plainfield, births and arrivals roughly balance deaths and departures, so the population stays near the same size. That is a steady population. Leaders there can plan for stable demand for water and classrooms, although an aging population could change which services people need.

2 Meanwhile, Junction City adds about 2,000 residents each year. Its population grows by a steady number of people, so adding one bus route every few years might keep pace at first. In Ridge City, the number of new residents rises each year: 1,000 in one year, then 2,000, then 3,000. Its growth is accelerating, but these gains do not prove exponential growth. Exponential growth means the population rises by the same percentage over equal time spans. For example, a population doubling every decade would go from 10,000 to 20,000 to 40,000, with larger numerical gains each decade.

3 These patterns affect one another across space. Some people leaving Harbor Village settle in Junction City, where new housing replaces fields near the edge of town. To limit this land loss, officials could permit taller apartment buildings near existing bus stops. This might shorten some commutes, but rents could rise if the new homes cost more than longtime residents can afford. Ridge City could extend water pipes outward to serve rapid growth, yet longer networks cost more to maintain. No single response fits every place: leaders must ask where change occurs, how fast it happens, and who gains or bears the costs.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Harbor Village's population path differ from Plainfield's, and what consequence could Harbor Village face?

2. Why do Ridge City's yearly gains show accelerating growth but not necessarily exponential growth?

3. How does migration from Harbor Village change land use near Junction City, and what response could officials try?

4. How might Junction City's and Ridge City's different growth paths call for different services? Include one cost of Ridge City's response.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a mountain town losing residents while a nearby valley city doubles its population every decade. In 4 to 5 sentences, name each population pattern, propose one response that connects the two places, and explain one benefit and one possible cost for each place.

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## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline evidence of four different population paths. Circle two human responses, then write the same number beside each response and one consequence linked to it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How does Harbor Village's population path differ from Plainfield's, and what consequence could Harbor Village face? | **Harbor Village is losing residents, while Plainfield's population stays near the same size. Harbor Village could lose its school, which may make more families want to leave.** |
| 2 | Why do Ridge City's yearly gains show accelerating growth but not necessarily exponential growth? | **Its yearly gains increase from 1,000 to 2,000 to 3,000 people. Exponential growth requires the population to rise by the same percentage over equal time spans, which those gains do not establish.** |
| 3 | How does migration from Harbor Village change land use near Junction City, and what response could officials try? | **New housing for arrivals replaces fields near Junction City's edge. Officials could permit taller apartments near existing bus stops to limit land loss.** |
| 4 | How might Junction City's and Ridge City's different growth paths call for different services? Include one cost of Ridge City's response. | **Junction City might add bus routes to keep pace with its steady yearly gains. Ridge City might extend water pipes to serve its accelerating growth, but longer networks cost more to maintain.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The mountain town is experiencing depopulation, while the valley city's doubling each decade is exponential growth. A regional bus line could give mountain residents access to valley jobs without moving away, helping the town keep families and services. However, the town would need to help pay for a route that might carry few riders at first. The valley city could gain workers without adding as much parking, but bus service would require public funding as its population expands.

Accept other plausible shared responses if the student correctly identifies both patterns and gives a geographically relevant benefit and cost for each place.