Why Cities Grow

Compare location and growth across three regions and eras

GHW.5.1 "Ask and answer geographic and historic questions about the origin and growth of towns, cities, and metropolitan areas in different regions of the world and in different time periods..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one location advantage and circle one human decision or technology that helped each city grow. Number the cities from oldest to newest so you can compare how growth factors changed over time.

Three Cities, Three Paths

1. Around 1325, the Mexica founded Tenochtitlan on an island in Lake Texcoco, in what is now Mexico City. Water helped protect the settlement from attack, while causeways connected it to the shore. The Mexica built canals for travel and raised fields called chinampas in nearby shallow lake waters to grow food. As their empire expanded, rulers collected tribute from conquered communities. Food and goods moved toward the capital, where markets attracted buyers and sellers. The city's growth depended on both its watery setting and decisions about farming, transport, and empire.

2. In the early 1600s, Edo grew around a castle near Tokyo Bay in Japan. Its position offered access to coastal shipping and river routes, which carried supplies into the city. After 1603, the Tokugawa shoguns ruled Japan from Edo. They required regional lords to spend regular periods there, bringing households and retainers who needed housing, food, and services. Builders, shopkeepers, and other workers followed this demand. Unlike Tenochtitlan, Edo did not grow as the capital of a conquering empire that drew tribute from surrounding peoples. Political rules and access to shipping together helped turn a castle town into a vast city.

3. In the 1800s, Chicago rose beside Lake Michigan and the Chicago River in the United States. Its waterways offered a link to the Great Lakes, but a new canal opened in 1848 connected the Great Lakes system to the Mississippi River system. Railroads soon carried grain, lumber, and people between Chicago and other parts of the country. Factories and meatpacking businesses drew workers, including many immigrants. Like the two earlier cities, Chicago benefited from routes that moved supplies and people. Unlike them, its rapid expansion relied heavily on industrial jobs and rail networks, not imperial tribute or rules requiring lords to live there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Tenochtitlan's island location help the settlement, and what did the Mexica build to make life there possible?

2. How did Edo's location and the shoguns' rule work together to make the city grow?

3. Chicago and Edo both had access to water routes. What additional transport links helped Chicago grow in the 1800s?

4. Compare one major human cause of growth in Tenochtitlan with one in Chicago. How do they reflect different time periods?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent two towns in different world regions and different eras, without using the cities in the passage. In 4 to 5 sentences, explain a location advantage and a cause of growth for each town, then compare how their growth factors differed over time.

ANSWER KEY

Why Cities Grow

HIGH SCHOOL · GHW.5.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one location advantage and circle one human decision or technology that helped each city grow. Number the cities from oldest to newest so you can compare how growth factors changed over time. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Tenochtitlan's island location help the settlement, and what did the Mexica build to make life there possible?	**The water helped protect the settlement. The Mexica built causeways for access, canals for travel, and chinampas to grow food.**
2	How did Edo's location and the shoguns' rule work together to make the city grow?	**Coastal and river routes brought supplies, while the required stays of regional lords created demand for housing, food, and services.**
3	Chicago and Edo both had access to water routes. What additional transport links helped Chicago grow in the 1800s?	**The 1848 canal linked the Great Lakes and Mississippi River systems, and railroads carried goods and people to and from Chicago.**
4	Compare one major human cause of growth in Tenochtitlan with one in Chicago. How do they reflect different time periods?	**Tenochtitlan grew as Mexica rulers collected tribute across an expanding empire. Chicago grew with railroads and industrial jobs in the 1800s.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the 1700s, my imagined town on the East African coast grew beside a sheltered harbor where ships could trade across the Indian Ocean. Merchants built warehouses, drawing workers and making trade easier. In the 1900s, my imagined town in an Andean valley had room for homes and farms. A new highway linked the valley to distant markets and brought more residents. Both towns needed routes to other places, but the first depended on sailing ships and merchant investment, while the second grew with modern road construction.

For the marking job, accept any passage-supported location advantage and human growth factor for each city. For Part 3, accept plausible invented towns if the response identifies different regions and eras, explains both towns' location and growth factors, and makes a clear comparison.