Why Cities Grow

Trace how location, work, and transportation shape urban growth

GHW.5.2 "Describe, using a variety of texts (writing, maps, timelines, and/or other graphic representations), the worldwide trend toward urbanization and the changing function of cities..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the worldwide trend in where people live. Number three causes of city growth, and circle one challenge that can limit a city's growth.

Three Cities, Changing Roles

1 In 1800, most people worldwide lived in rural areas. Over the next two centuries, cities grew across continents; today, more than half of humanity lives in urban areas. Manchester, England, shows an early stage of this shift. In the nineteenth century, textile mills drew workers from the countryside. Canals and then railways carried cotton from Liverpool's port to factories and shipped cloth to buyers. Coal-powered machines allowed mills to produce far more cloth than hand weavers could. Manchester became a center of factory work, but crowded housing and smoke made growth costly for many residents.

2 Urban growth did not stop when factory work spread beyond Europe. Lagos, Nigeria, expanded rapidly during the twentieth century and continues to grow. Its coastal location and port connect businesses to trade, while roads carry people and goods between Lagos and other parts of Nigeria. Population growth increased the number of people seeking work and housing. Jobs in trade, government, and services attracted migrants as well. In some rural regions, changes in farming reduced the need for workers, adding to migration toward cities. Lagos also faces traffic congestion and coastal flooding, which can limit the benefits of its location.

3 Shanghai, China, illustrates another stage. Its position near the mouth of the Yangtze River gave it access to inland markets and overseas shipping. During China's late twentieth-century industrial expansion, factories and container shipping helped draw workers to the city. As its population grew, Shanghai also expanded finance, research, and other services; city work was no longer centered only on manufacturing. Meanwhile, more productive farming in many parts of the world helped feed larger urban populations, though its effects on migration varied. Taken together, these cities show a worldwide move toward urban living, but local geography, transportation, and jobs shaped each city's path.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What worldwide population trend do the three cities illustrate? How did the main work described in Manchester differ from Shanghai's later work?

2. How did transportation and location help Manchester and Shanghai grow? Give one connection for each city.

3. Describe two different ways changes in farming can contribute to urban growth.

4. How does Lagos's coastal location both support growth and create a challenge?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a city at a river crossing in a region where farms are using more machines and the population is rising. In five or six sentences, explain how a new transportation link could change the city's jobs, how farming and population changes could affect its growth, and one disadvantage of its location.

ANSWER KEY

Why Cities Grow

HIGH SCHOOL · GHW.5.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the worldwide trend in where people live. Number three causes of city growth, and circle one challenge that can limit a city's growth. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What worldwide population trend do the three cities illustrate? How did the main work described in Manchester differ from Shanghai's later work?	**A growing share of people live in cities. Manchester centered on textile factories, while Shanghai expanded from manufacturing into finance, research, and other services.**
2	How did transportation and location help Manchester and Shanghai grow? Give one connection for each city.	**Canals and railways linked Manchester's mills to cotton arriving through Liverpool and to cloth buyers. Shanghai's location near the Yangtze River connected it to inland markets and overseas shipping.**
3	Describe two different ways changes in farming can contribute to urban growth.	**When farming needs fewer workers, some people may move to cities. More productive farming can also help feed larger urban populations.**
4	How does Lagos's coastal location both support growth and create a challenge?	**Its port supports trade and jobs, but coastal flooding can put people and property at risk and make growth more difficult.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My city, Crossford, sits where a river divides two farming districts. A new bridge would let trucks reach shops and repair businesses on both banks, making Crossford a regional trading center. As farms buy harvesting machines, some workers might move to the city for those jobs. A growing regional population could bring more customers and increase demand for homes. The river may flood low neighborhoods, raising construction costs and putting residents at risk. Crossford could grow if leaders build on higher ground, but the bridge alone would not guarantee jobs for everyone.

Accept other passage-supported connections between urban growth, changing city functions, and their causes. For Part 3, look for a plausible chain of effects rather than a prediction that growth is certain.