Counties in Motion

Use census counts and location clues to consider Indiana's future.

IS.3.8 "Read and interpret texts (written, graphs, maps, imagery, timelines) to answer geographic questions about Indiana in the past and present and to plan for Indiana's future."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each clue about where a county is located, then circle the two census counts for the county you think gained the most residents. Use your marks as evidence in your answers.

Where Indiana Grows

1 A planner comparing Indiana counties needs both location and change over time. Marion County, home to Indianapolis, lies near the state's center. Hamilton County borders Marion to the north, while Lake County meets Lake Michigan in the northwest. The table lists residents counted by the U.S. census in 2010 and 2020.

INDIANA COUNTY POPULATIONS, U.S. CENSUSES

County	2010 residents	2020 residents
Marion	903,393	977,203
Hamilton	274,569	347,467
Lake	496,005	498,700

2 Population counts show how many people lived in each county on a census date, not how closely homes are packed or where new buildings stand. A change between two counts can suggest pressure on roads, housing, and public services. It cannot show whether a specific street needs another bus or a larger drain.

3 Indiana communities make different choices as they prepare for growth. Bus routes may help people reach jobs; protecting open ground can leave room for rainwater to soak in. Near Lake Michigan, shoreline conditions add another planning concern. A useful proposal names a county, cites a change in the table, and explains what local evidence is still missing.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which county gained the most residents from 2010 to 2020? Show the difference.

2. Which county had the largest percentage increase from 2010 to 2020? Show how you compared its counts.

3. How could Lake County's location create a planning concern that the table alone does not show? Use a detail from the passage.

4. A classmate says Lake County's small population increase proves its shoreline did not change. Is that conclusion supported? Explain using the table and passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose Marion or Hamilton County and propose one planning step not named in the passage. In three or four sentences, use both census counts and a location clue to explain your choice, then name local information planners would need before acting.

ANSWER KEY

Counties in Motion

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each clue about where a county is located, then circle the two census counts for the county you think gained the most residents. Use your marks as evidence in your answers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which county gained the most residents from 2010 to 2020? Show the difference.	**Marion County gained the most: 977,203 minus 903,393 equals 73,810 residents.**
2	Which county had the largest percentage increase from 2010 to 2020? Show how you compared its counts.	**Hamilton County. Its gain of 72,898 divided by its 2010 population of 274,569 is about 26.5%, greater than Marion's roughly 8.2% and Lake's roughly 0.5%.**
3	How could Lake County's location create a planning concern that the table alone does not show? Use a detail from the passage.	**Lake County meets Lake Michigan, so shoreline conditions could affect planning. Population counts do not describe those conditions.**
4	A classmate says Lake County's small population increase proves its shoreline did not change. Is that conclusion supported? Explain using the table and passage.	**No. Lake County gained 2,695 residents, but the passage says census counts show population, not shoreline conditions. The table cannot establish whether the shoreline changed.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Hamilton County grew from 274,569 residents in 2010 to 347,467 in 2020. Because it borders Marion County, planners could consider coordinating locations for new emergency response stations near the county line. Before choosing sites, they would need records of emergency calls and travel times to learn where faster service may be needed.

Accept either county in Part 3 if the proposal is new, the counts and location are accurate, and the student identifies relevant local evidence. For percentage comparisons, accept reasonable rounding.