

City Life Changes

Trace how urban growth changed daily life in late nineteenth-century America.

8.2b "Population density, diversity, technologies, and industry in urban areas shaped the social, cultural, and economic lives of people."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each paragraph that shows a cause of urban change, and circle one detail that shows an effect on people's lives. Number the three cause-and-effect pairs you find.

Cities Grow and Change

- ① In the late 1800s, New York City drew people seeking work. Factories made clothing, cigars, furniture, and other goods near crowded neighborhoods and busy docks. New technologies, including electric lights, elevators, and streetcars, changed how the city worked. Elevators allowed offices and apartments to rise higher, while streetcars carried workers farther from their jobs. These changes helped businesses produce and move goods, but they also brought more people into the city in search of work and housing each year.
- ② Many newcomers lived in tenements, apartment buildings divided into small rooms. Because land near jobs cost a lot, several families could live on one floor, and some rooms had little light or fresh air. High population density meant that many people shared a small area. Neighbors heard many languages, bought food at ethnic markets, attended different religious services, and formed clubs or mutual-aid societies. These communities preserved traditions and helped families find housing, work, and support, even when living conditions were difficult.
- ③ Urban industry created jobs, yet workers often faced long hours, low pay, and dangerous machines. Children and adults could work in factories, laundries, and shops. Crowded streets also made it easier for news, music, theater, and ideas to spread among people from many backgrounds. At the same time, overcrowded housing and poor sanitation could spread disease. Reformers investigated tenements and workplaces, then pushed city governments for safer buildings, cleaner water, parks, schools, and laws limiting child labor.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did elevators and streetcars each help cities grow or change?

2 What does high population density mean, and what living problem did it create in tenements?

3 Give two ways diversity shaped the social or cultural lives of city residents.

4 How did industry affect workers, and name one reform that people demanded in response.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

A growing city opens a new streetcar line and several factories. Write three sentences predicting one change in population density, one economic effect, and one social or cultural effect. Use cause-and-effect words.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each paragraph that shows a cause of urban change, and circle one detail that shows an effect on people's lives. Number the three cause-and-effect pairs you find. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did elevators and streetcars each help cities grow or change?	Elevators allowed taller offices and apartments. Streetcars carried workers farther from their jobs.
2	What does high population density mean, and what living problem did it create in tenements?	It means many people shared a small area. In tenements, several families could live on one floor, and some rooms had little light or fresh air.
3	Give two ways diversity shaped the social or cultural lives of city residents.	Residents heard many languages, bought food at ethnic markets, attended different religious services, or formed clubs and mutual-aid societies.
4	How did industry affect workers, and name one reform that people demanded in response.	Industry created jobs but could bring long hours, low pay, and dangerous machines. Reformers demanded safer buildings, cleaner water, parks, schools, or laws limiting child labor.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Because factories offer jobs, more workers move near the streetcar stops, increasing population density. The factories create wages and business for nearby stores. As newcomers from different backgrounds settle there, markets and community groups reflect their traditions.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect predictions that address density, an economic effect, and a social or cultural effect. Students may describe benefits, problems, or both, as long as their explanations are historically reasonable.