

Cities Under Pressure

Trace how rapid growth created social and political problems.

8.2c "Increased urbanization and industrialization contributed to increasing conflicts over immigration, influenced changes in labor conditions, and led to political corruption."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a cause of conflict. Label one example each: 1 for immigration conflict, 2 for harsh labor conditions, and 3 for political corruption.

Growth, Work, and Power

- ① By the late 1800s, factories and railroads drew workers to fast-growing cities. Many newcomers arrived from Europe and Asia, seeking jobs and safety. Some native-born Americans feared competition for work and changes in their communities. Nativism, favoring native-born people over immigrants, fueled conflict. In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which barred Chinese laborers from immigrating. The law reflected anti-Chinese prejudice and limited a group that employers had hired for difficult, low-paid work. Debates over who belonged became a major urban political issue.
- ② Industrial growth created thousands of city jobs, but conditions were often harsh. In sweatshops, workers sewed clothing in cramped rooms for long hours and low pay. Employers also hired children because they could pay them less. A child might spend the day in a mill or factory instead of attending school. As reports exposed injuries and unsafe buildings, workers organized unions and reformers demanded shorter hours, safer workplaces, and limits on child labor through new laws.
- ③ City growth also changed politics. Political machines, such as Tammany Hall in New York City, built support by helping some residents find jobs, food, or housing. In return, machine leaders expected votes. This system gave machines power over city contracts and public jobs. William M. Tweed, known as Boss Tweed, led Tammany Hall and used his influence to steal public money through dishonest contracts. Investigations and public anger eventually helped bring him down from power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the arrival of newcomers contribute to conflict in cities?

2 What did the Chinese Exclusion Act do, and what attitude did it reflect?

3 Name two harsh labor conditions in the passage. What changes did reformers demand?

4 What did political machines give residents in exchange for votes? How did Boss Tweed use political power dishonestly?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence newspaper note about an imaginary growing city around 1900. Explain one immigration conflict, one labor problem, and one risk of political corruption, using cause-and-effect words such as because, so, or as a result.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline a cause of conflict. Label one example each: 1 for immigration conflict, 2 for harsh labor conditions, and 3 for political corruption. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the arrival of newcomers contribute to conflict in cities?	Some native-born Americans feared job competition and changes in their communities, which fueled nativism and conflict.
2	What did the Chinese Exclusion Act do, and what attitude did it reflect?	It barred Chinese laborers from immigrating, and it reflected anti-Chinese prejudice.
3	Name two harsh labor conditions in the passage. What changes did reformers demand?	Conditions included long hours, low pay, cramped sweatshops, child labor, injuries, and unsafe buildings. Reformers demanded shorter hours, safer workplaces, and limits on child labor.
4	What did political machines give residents in exchange for votes? How did Boss Tweed use political power dishonestly?	Machines gave some residents jobs, food, or housing in exchange for votes. Tweed used his influence to steal public money through dishonest contracts.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

As factories brought new workers to Riverton, some residents blamed immigrants for job competition. Because employers wanted low costs, children worked long hours in crowded shops. A political machine could win votes by offering jobs, gaining power that its leaders might misuse through dishonest city contracts.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations that include all three required areas: immigration conflict, labor conditions, and political corruption. Students may use different imaginary city details if those details fit the historical patterns in the passage.