

Population on the Move

Trace how postwar population changes reshaped the United States.

8.8a "After World War II, the United States experienced various shifts in population and demographics that resulted in social, political, and economic consequences."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number four changes: the baby boom, suburban growth, Sun Belt migration, and population aging. Mark one effect of each with its matching number.

A Changing Postwar Nation

- ① After World War II, many U.S. families had more children than families had during the Great Depression and the war. This rapid rise in births, called the baby boom, increased the number of young people. As children grew, communities needed more homes, classrooms, teachers, playgrounds, and stores. Builders constructed large housing developments outside cities, where land was often less expensive. Local governments spent more on roads, water systems, and schools to serve growing families there.
- ② These new communities were suburbs, residential areas outside a city. Cars and highways made it easier for many workers to live farther from downtown jobs. Suburban growth brought shopping centers and new tax bases to some areas, but it also changed older cities. As some residents and businesses left, city neighborhoods could lose customers, jobs, and money for services. Farmland near expanding suburbs was often turned into houses, roads, and businesses. In New York State and elsewhere, this reduced land available for farming.
- ③ At the same time, population shifts changed political power. People moved from parts of the Midwest and northern industrial states to warmer Sun Belt states in the South and West. Some fast-growing states gained seats in the House of Representatives after census counts were used to reapportion seats. This gave those states a stronger voice in national politics. As the baby boom generation aged, demand for services changed. As more people retire, Social Security and health care face greater demand, which can strain public budgets and workers who support those programs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the baby boom affect what growing communities needed to build and provide?

2 Explain one way suburban growth changed older cities and one way it changed nearby land.

3 Why did the move to Sun Belt states change political power?

4 What retirement and health services face greater demand as baby boomers age, and why can this strain budgets?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that a small city gains many families with young children over five years. Write four sentences explaining two changes the city might make and one social, political, or economic consequence of those changes.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number four changes: the baby boom, suburban growth, Sun Belt migration, and population aging. Mark one effect of each with its matching number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the baby boom affect what growing communities needed to build and provide?	It increased the need for homes, classrooms, teachers, playgrounds, stores, roads, water systems, and schools.
2	Explain one way suburban growth changed older cities and one way it changed nearby land.	Older city neighborhoods could lose residents, businesses, customers, jobs, and money for services. Nearby farmland was often changed into houses, roads, and businesses.
3	Why did the move to Sun Belt states change political power?	Some fast-growing Sun Belt states gained House seats after census reapportionment, giving them a stronger voice in national politics.
4	What retirement and health services face greater demand as baby boomers age, and why can this strain budgets?	Social Security and health care face greater demand as more people retire and grow older. Providing benefits and care can put pressure on public budgets and the workers supporting these services.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The city might build an elementary school because more children need classrooms and teachers. It might also improve roads near new housing areas. These projects could create construction jobs and require the city to spend more tax money. City leaders would need to decide how to pay for the new services.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations that connect a population change to a social, political, or economic result. For the open response, accept reasonable changes and consequences that follow logically from an increase in families with children.