Growing New Communities

Read how families built opportunities in Oklahoma.

3.C.3.2.C "Explain how many African Americans migrated to Oklahoma, considering it an opportunity where farming communities, businesses, and schools could grow (e.g., historic Black towns, Tulsa's Greenwood District)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline why many African Americans moved to Oklahoma. Circle the farms, businesses, and schools that helped their communities grow.

A Chance to Grow

1. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, thousands of African Americans moved to the land that became Oklahoma. They did not all arrive at once or settle in one place. Many hoped to buy land and grow crops. Some wanted to live in towns where Black neighbors could work together and lead their own schools and businesses. Moving offered a chance to build new lives.

2. Boley was one of Oklahoma's historic Black towns. Black families made homes there, and some farmed land near town. People opened stores where neighbors could buy what they needed. They also built schools so children could learn close to home. A farm could grow food to sell, while a store could earn money and serve the town. Each new place helped the community grow.

3. In Tulsa, African Americans built the Greenwood District, a neighborhood with Black-owned businesses. Shops, offices, and schools gave people places to work, learn, and spend money near home. Greenwood showed another kind of opportunity, a busy city community instead of a farming town. People also faced unfair treatment because of their race. Still, many worked to make homes and create opportunities for others.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How many African Americans moved to the land that became Oklahoma, and what did many hope to do there?

2. How could farms and stores help the community in Boley grow?

3. How did schools help families build communities in Boley and Greenwood?

4. How were the opportunities in Boley different from those in Greenwood?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are helping welcome a family to a new Black town in Oklahoma. Write three sentences: explain why many African Americans moved, suggest a place your family could help start that is not named in the passage, and tell how it would help neighbors.

ANSWER KEY

Growing New Communities

GRADE 3 · 3.C.3.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline why many African Americans moved to Oklahoma. Circle the farms, businesses, and schools that helped their communities grow. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How many African Americans moved to the land that became Oklahoma, and what did many hope to do there?	**Thousands moved. Many hoped to buy land and grow crops.**
2	How could farms and stores help the community in Boley grow?	**Farms could grow food to sell. Stores could earn money and serve neighbors.**
3	How did schools help families build communities in Boley and Greenwood?	**Schools gave children in Boley and people in Greenwood places to learn close to home.**
4	How were the opportunities in Boley different from those in Greenwood?	**Boley had farms near town, along with stores and schools. Greenwood was a city neighborhood with shops, offices, and schools.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Thousands of African Americans moved to Oklahoma hoping for a chance to farm and build communities. My family could help start a grain mill. The mill could turn farmers' corn into meal that neighbors could use or sell.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons and explanations. For Your Turn, the proposed place must differ from those named in the passage and have a clear benefit for neighbors.