A Nation Moves

Read census data alongside a historical account

8.P.3.1.B "Integrate the use of visual information (e.g., maps, charts, photographs, videos, political cartoons, artwork) with textual information from primary and secondary sources to draw conclusions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details in the written account that help explain the change shown in the table. Circle two table values that show the change, then number each value and the detail it connects to with the same number.

When America Became Urban

1 The table shows urban population percentages from four U.S. censuses. These government records are primary sources because census workers gathered information at the time. An urban place generally had at least 2,500 residents. Each percentage shows the share of U.S. residents living in urban places, not the number of people who moved that year.

U.S. CENSUS: RESIDENTS LIVING IN URBAN PLACES

Census year	Share of U.S. residents
1910	45.6%
1920	51.2%
1930	56.1%
1940	56.5%

2 This later historical account is a secondary source: it uses records to explain a pattern. In the early 1900s, factories offered jobs in cities. Some people moved from farms and small towns, while others arrived from abroad. Cities also offered shops and services. These details suggest possible reasons for growth, but the table alone does not measure anyone's reasons for moving.

3 A national percentage cannot show where each family lived before moving. It also cannot show whether a new city resident took a factory job or found other work. The census table reveals a change in where Americans lived, while the written account describes several forces that may have shaped it. Reading them together helps explain the change without treating every family's story as the same.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Compare 1910 and 1920 in the table. What changed about whether most Americans lived in urban places, and how does the written account help explain that change?

2. Between 1920 and 1940, did the urban share keep rising? Use both table values and one detail from the account in your answer.

3. How does the pattern in the table fit the account's description of people moving from farms and small towns? What can the table not prove about those moves?

4. Could these census percentages show whether newcomers from abroad or people from farms made up more of the urban increase? Use the account and table to explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum caption focused on the 1930 entry. Give its percentage, connect it to a detail in the written account not used in your answers above, and name one question you would investigate with another primary source.

ANSWER KEY

A Nation Moves

GRADE 8 · 8.P.3.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details in the written account that help explain the change shown in the table. Circle two table values that show the change, then number each value and the detail it connects to with the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare 1910 and 1920 in the table. What changed about whether most Americans lived in urban places, and how does the written account help explain that change?	**The urban share rose from 45.6% to 51.2%, so a majority lived in urban places by 1920. The account suggests that city jobs, shops, and services were possible attractions.**
2	Between 1920 and 1940, did the urban share keep rising? Use both table values and one detail from the account in your answer.	**Yes. It rose from 51.2% in 1920 to 56.5% in 1940. The account describes factory jobs as one possible reason people moved to cities.**
3	How does the pattern in the table fit the account's description of people moving from farms and small towns? What can the table not prove about those moves?	**The rising urban share fits movement toward cities, but the table cannot prove how many people moved from farms or small towns, or why they moved.**
4	Could these census percentages show whether newcomers from abroad or people from farms made up more of the urban increase? Use the account and table to explain.	**No. The account mentions both groups, but the table gives only the total urban share for each year, not the number of people from either group.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1930, 56.1% of U.S. residents lived in urban places. The account says cities offered shops and services, which may have attracted some residents. I would check city business directories to learn what services were available.

Accept other accurate connections between a table value and a detail in the account. Students should distinguish what the census percentages show from possible explanations that the table cannot prove.