Changing Oklahoma

Trace why people moved and how Oklahoma City responded.

OKH.C.8.2.G "Identify the causes and consequences of rural to urban to suburban migration, as well as urban renewal efforts (e.g., Oklahoma City's MAPS Project)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one cause of each move, from rural areas to cities and from cities to suburbs, and circle one consequence of each move. Then box the downtown problem that led to MAPS and one effect the projects were meant to have.

From Farms to Downtown

1 In the early twentieth century, many Oklahoma families lived on farms or in small towns. As tractors and other machines reduced the need for farm labor, some workers looked for wages elsewhere. Drought and dust storms in the 1930s also made farming difficult, although many people left Oklahoma entirely. Cities such as Oklahoma City offered jobs in oil, transportation, and other businesses. Moving to a city could bring a steadier paycheck and access to services, but it also increased demand for housing and city streets. These changes did not happen to every family at the same time.

2 After World War II, another move reshaped the Oklahoma City area. Some city residents moved to suburbs, communities outside the central city. More families could buy cars, new highways made commuting easier, and builders offered houses with more space. People could work downtown yet live farther away. As homes and stores spread outward, traffic and the need for roads grew. The shift could also draw customers and tax revenue away from older neighborhoods and downtown businesses. Not everyone had the same access to suburban homes, since lending practices and housing discrimination restricted some families' choices.

3 By the late twentieth century, Oklahoma City leaders worried about a struggling downtown and aging public spaces. Voters approved the original Metropolitan Area Projects plan, called MAPS, in 1993. A temporary one-cent sales tax paid for public projects, including a downtown ballpark, the Bricktown Canal, and improvements along the Oklahoma River. These changes aimed to attract visitors, businesses, and residents to the city center. MAPS helped renew downtown and encouraged private investment, but debates continued about which neighborhoods benefited and how public money should be spent. Urban renewal can change a place without solving every resident's needs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What caused some rural Oklahomans to seek city jobs, and what was one result of their move?

2. How did cars and highways encourage a move to suburbs, and what was one consequence?

3. How could the move to suburbs help explain why Oklahoma City leaders supported downtown renewal?

4. What problem led to MAPS, and what was one benefit and one continuing concern?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Oklahoma City adds a bus route between a suburb and downtown. In 4 to 5 sentences, explain how the earlier moves from rural areas to cities and then to suburbs could create a need for this route, and predict one benefit and one possible drawback.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one cause of each move, from rural areas to cities and from cities to suburbs, and circle one consequence of each move. Then box the downtown problem that led to MAPS and one effect the projects were meant to have. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What caused some rural Oklahomans to seek city jobs, and what was one result of their move?	**Farm machines reduced the need for labor, so some workers sought city jobs. Their move increased demand for city housing and streets.**
2	How did cars and highways encourage a move to suburbs, and what was one consequence?	**They made it easier to live outside the city and commute to work. As homes spread outward, traffic and the need for roads grew.**
3	How could the move to suburbs help explain why Oklahoma City leaders supported downtown renewal?	**Suburban growth could draw customers and tax revenue away from downtown. Leaders supported projects meant to attract visitors, businesses, and residents back to the city center.**
4	What problem led to MAPS, and what was one benefit and one continuing concern?	**Leaders worried about a struggling downtown and aging public spaces. MAPS encouraged private investment, but people continued to debate which neighborhoods benefited.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When farm machines reduced jobs, some rural residents moved to Oklahoma City for work. Later, cars and highways helped some city residents settle in suburbs while keeping city jobs. A bus route between a suburb and downtown could serve people making that longer trip. It might reduce car traffic and help downtown businesses keep customers. However, residents far from the bus stops might see little benefit from the route.

Accept other causes and consequences stated in the passage. For the open task, look for both migration steps, a logical reason for the route, and a plausible benefit and drawback.