When Places Grow

Compare communities and trace the effects of migration.

WG.C.2.2 "Examine common characteristics of urban versus rural communities, including the patterns and impact of modern migration to urban centers and megacities."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two contrasts between rural and urban communities, circle one reason to leave a rural area and one reason to choose a city, and write 1 beside an effect on the city and 2 beside an effect on the farming district.

From Fields to City Streets

1. At dawn, a delivery van leaves a farming district for the nearby city. Homes in the district are spread across fields, so a clinic and a high school may serve several settlements. Many residents work in farming or businesses that support it. In the city, homes, shops, and workplaces stand closer together. More people can reach hospitals, colleges, and varied employers, but crowded streets make travel slow. These are common patterns, not strict rules: some rural residents work online, and some urban neighborhoods have gardens and open space.

2. Now follow a young adult who moves from that district to the city. A weak harvest may reduce local income, while a job offer and a college program draw the person toward the city. This movement is rural-to-urban migration. Such moves, along with growth within cities, have increased the share of people living in urban areas worldwide over recent decades. Migrants may first settle with relatives or friends who can help them find work. When an urban area reaches at least 10 million residents, it is called a megacity. Migration contributes to the growth of some megacities, but it is not their only source of growth.

3. As more workers arrive, city businesses may find employees and customers, and newcomers may earn more than they could at home. Yet housing construction and public services may not keep pace with population growth. Rents can rise, and water systems, schools, and transit may face extra demand, especially in fast-growing megacities. The farming district also changes: a household may receive money sent home by a migrant, while a local business may struggle to replace a departing worker. A move can improve one family's options and still create challenges for both the destination and the place left behind.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the spacing of homes and access to services differ between the farming district and the city?

2. How do a weak harvest and a college program work differently in a person's move to the city?

3. How can rural-to-urban migration help an urban area become a megacity, and why is migration not the only source of its growth?

4. After people move, compare one possible gain and one possible strain for the city with one possible gain and one possible strain for the farming district.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A coastal town is gaining families from inland farming villages after repeated dry seasons. Propose one action for the town and one for the villages, then explain a likely benefit and a trade-off of your plan using at least two urban-rural characteristics from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

When Places Grow

HIGH SCHOOL · WG.C.2.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two contrasts between rural and urban communities, circle one reason to leave a rural area and one reason to choose a city, and write 1 beside an effect on the city and 2 beside an effect on the farming district. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the spacing of homes and access to services differ between the farming district and the city?	**Homes are spread out in the farming district, where a clinic or high school may serve several settlements. City buildings are closer together, and more people can reach hospitals and colleges.**
2	How do a weak harvest and a college program work differently in a person's move to the city?	**A weak harvest may reduce income and push the person to leave the farming district. A college program draws the person toward the city.**
3	How can rural-to-urban migration help an urban area become a megacity, and why is migration not the only source of its growth?	**Migrants add residents, helping an urban area reach 10 million people. Growth within cities also adds to their populations.**
4	After people move, compare one possible gain and one possible strain for the city with one possible gain and one possible strain for the farming district.	**City businesses may gain workers, but rents may rise. Farming households may receive money sent home, but local businesses may struggle to replace departing workers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The town could convert vacant buildings into apartments near jobs. This might ease pressure on rents, but renovations would cost money. The inland villages could build shared rainwater storage so families have another option during dry seasons. Because village homes are spread out, storage sites would need to serve several settlements. The town might then gain fewer new workers, but families in both places would have more choices.

Accept other passage-supported contrasts, causes, gains, and strains in Part 2. For Part 3, look for two distinct actions, a plausible benefit and trade-off, and a clear connection to at least two rural-urban characteristics.