Where People Move

Use population data to examine urban growth and migration.

WG.C.2 "Analyze how the human population is organized geographically in order to understand how change affects human systems. Interpret geographic data measuring population including density, distribution, patterns of composition..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the 2010 and 2025 density figures for both places in the table, circle one push factor and one pull factor in the text, and number two effects of migration on services.

A City and Its Valley

1 In this fictional region, Harbor City draws people from rural Cedar Valley. Population density measures residents per square kilometer, while distribution describes where people live. The table compares the two places over time. Harbor City's 2040 figure is a projection, not a count. As its population rises, the city may need more housing and transit.

POPULATION IN A FICTIONAL REGION

Place and year	Population	Area (km²)	Density (people/km²)
Harbor City, 2010	1,000,000	500	2,000
Harbor City, 2025	1,500,000	500	3,000
Harbor City, 2040 projection	2,000,000	500	4,000
Cedar Valley, 2010	200,000	2,000	100
Cedar Valley, 2025	180,000	2,000	90

2 Paved roads and many employers make Harbor City an urban center; Cedar Valley has farms and homes spread farther apart. Surveys in this imagined region find that some young adults leave the valley because farm jobs are scarce, a push factor. More paid training and hospital jobs in the city are pull factors.

3 When trained workers move, they carry human capital, meaning skills and knowledge, with them. City hospitals may gain staff, while valley clinics may struggle to replace departing workers. Births still exceed deaths in both places, but families have fewer children than before. City growth therefore does not prove that births increased; migration also shapes population change.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Compare the two places' population densities in 2025. What does this difference suggest about where people are concentrated?

2. What population trend does the table project for Harbor City after 2025? Why should you not treat the 2040 number as a measured result?

3. Explain how one push factor and one pull factor described in the passage could move people from Cedar Valley to Harbor City.

4. Cedar Valley's population fell even though births exceeded deaths there. What does this suggest about migration, and how could the change affect valley clinics?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a planning note for leaders of both places. Propose one action for Cedar Valley and one for Harbor City, support your choices with two numbers from the table, and explain how migration could affect workers or services.

ANSWER KEY

Where People Move

HIGH SCHOOL · WG.C.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the 2010 and 2025 density figures for both places in the table, circle one push factor and one pull factor in the text, and number two effects of migration on services. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare the two places' population densities in 2025. What does this difference suggest about where people are concentrated?	**Harbor City had 3,000 people per km², compared with 90 in Cedar Valley. People were far more concentrated in the city.**
2	What population trend does the table project for Harbor City after 2025? Why should you not treat the 2040 number as a measured result?	**The city is projected to grow from 1.5 million in 2025 to 2 million in 2040. The 2040 number is an estimate of the future, not a count.**
3	Explain how one push factor and one pull factor described in the passage could move people from Cedar Valley to Harbor City.	**Scarce farm jobs push some young adults to leave the valley. Paid training or hospital jobs pull them toward the city.**
4	Cedar Valley's population fell even though births exceeded deaths there. What does this suggest about migration, and how could the change affect valley clinics?	**More people must have left than arrived, by enough to outweigh the increase from births. If trained workers leave, clinics may struggle to replace them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Cedar Valley should offer training and hiring support for clinic workers. Its population fell from 200,000 in 2010 to 180,000 in 2025, and departing workers could leave clinics short-staffed. Harbor City should plan more housing near transit. Its population is projected to reach 2,000,000 by 2040, so more residents may need places to live and ways to travel. Both plans respond to the movement of people and their skills.

Accept other feasible actions tied to two accurate table values and a clear explanation of migration's effect on workers or services. Students should identify the 2040 value as a projection, not an observed count.