

Seeing Change Clearly

Use historical data to choose, read, and create useful visuals.

8.29.G “create a visual representation of historical information such as thematic maps, graphs, and charts representing various aspects of the United States; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each kind of visual representation named in the passage, then underline the words that explain what information each one can show.

Chicago During the Great Migration

- ① Historical data can reveal change when a reader turns numbers into a visual form. The bar chart below uses U.S. Census counts to show the Black population of Chicago during the Great Migration. Many Black Americans moved from the South to northern and western cities, seeking jobs and escaping racial violence and discrimination.

BLACK POPULATION OF CHICAGO, U.S. CENSUS COUNTS



- ② A clear chart needs a title, labels, and a unit. Its title tells the topic and place. Labels identify categories, such as years, while the unit explains what each bar measures. On this chart, bar length represents population, so a longer bar represents more people, not a faster rate of growth.
- ③ Different visuals answer different historical questions. A bar chart is useful for comparing amounts across a few categories. A table lets readers find exact values. A thematic map uses colors or patterns to show how one feature is distributed across places. Before creating a visual, choose evidence that matches the question.

1 WORKS CITED

Use with the passage

Population data: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Fourteenth Census of the United States, monograph chapter on population, printed p. 127 (Chicago and Detroit, 1910 and 1920).

<https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1920/monograph-1/00476515n1ch1.pdf>

Historical census categories are presented here using current terminology.

Chicago 1930 count: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Abstract of the Fifteenth Census of the United States, Table 45, printed p. 104. <https://www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/00476589ch02.pdf>

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What group and city does the bar chart show?

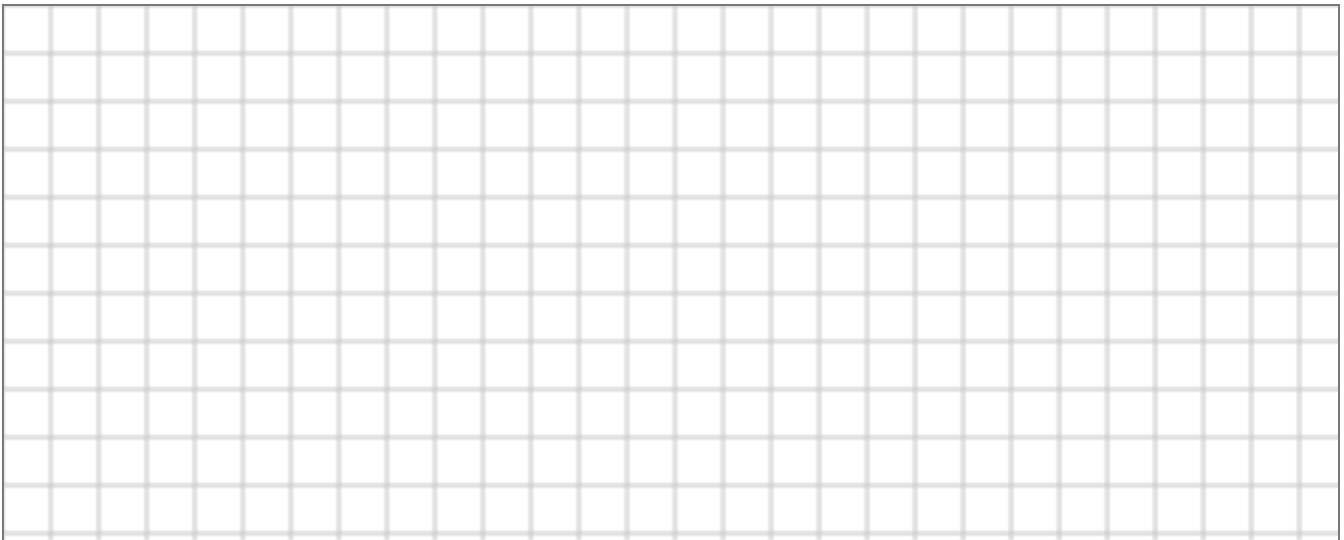
2 What does the length of each bar measure?

3 Use the chart to find how many more Black residents lived in Chicago in 1930 than in 1910.

4 Which visual should a historian use to find an exact population count, a bar chart, a table, or a thematic map? Explain why.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a bar graph using these U.S. population totals: 1790, 3.9 million; 1800, 5.3 million; 1810, 7.2 million; 1820, 9.6 million. Add a title and labels for both axes, then write one sentence describing the change shown.



PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each kind of visual representation named in the passage, then underline the words that explain what information each one can show. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What group and city does the bar chart show?	It shows the Black population of Chicago.
2	What does the length of each bar measure?	The length measures population, or the number of people.
3	Use the chart to find how many more Black residents lived in Chicago in 1930 than in 1910.	189,800 more people.
4	Which visual should a historian use to find an exact population count, a bar chart, a table, or a thematic map? Explain why.	A table, because it lets readers find exact values.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Bar graph title: U.S. Population Growth, 1790 to 1820. Horizontal axis: Year. Vertical axis: Population in millions. Bars: 1790, 3.9; 1800, 5.3; 1810, 7.2; 1820, 9.6. The U.S. population increased in every census year shown.

Accept correctly labeled graphs with bars at 3.9, 5.3, 7.2, and 9.6 million. The sentence should accurately describe an increase across the four years. Chicago counts are retained after checking the cited Census Bureau publications: 44,103 in 1910, 109,458 in 1920 and 233,903 in 1930. The 1910–1930 increase remains 189,800. The 1920 count is consistent with companion worksheet 8.29.C.