

Riverbend Data Detectives

Read location clues and turn population data into a graph.

4.20.B “interpret geographic data, population distribution, and natural resources into a variety of formats such as graphs and maps.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that tells where a community is located or names a natural resource. Circle every population number in the table so you can compare how people are distributed.

A County in Data

- ① Geographers study where people live and what a place provides. They use maps, tables, and graphs to organize geographic data. A map can show rivers, roads, and land features. A table can compare numbers. When you read either format, look for patterns, such as a larger population near water or a resource near certain land.
- ② Riverbend County has four communities. Northfield sits beside the Blue River, where farms use rich soil and river water. Pine Hill lies in a forested area that supplies timber. Stone Flats has a limestone quarry. Lakeview is beside a lake and has sandy beaches that attract visitors. The table gives each community's population and main natural resource.

RIVERBEND COUNTY POPULATION AND RESOURCES

Community	Population	Main natural resource
Northfield	3,200	Rich soil and river water
Pine Hill	950	Timber
Stone Flats	1,350	Limestone
Lakeview	2,400	Lake water and sand

- ③ Population numbers can be shown in a bar graph. Each community would be named along the bottom, and bar height would show its population. Comparing bar heights makes the distribution easier to see. A community's resource can help explain a pattern, but it does not prove why people chose to live there. Geographers look for evidence before drawing conclusions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which community has the largest population? What population number supports your answer?

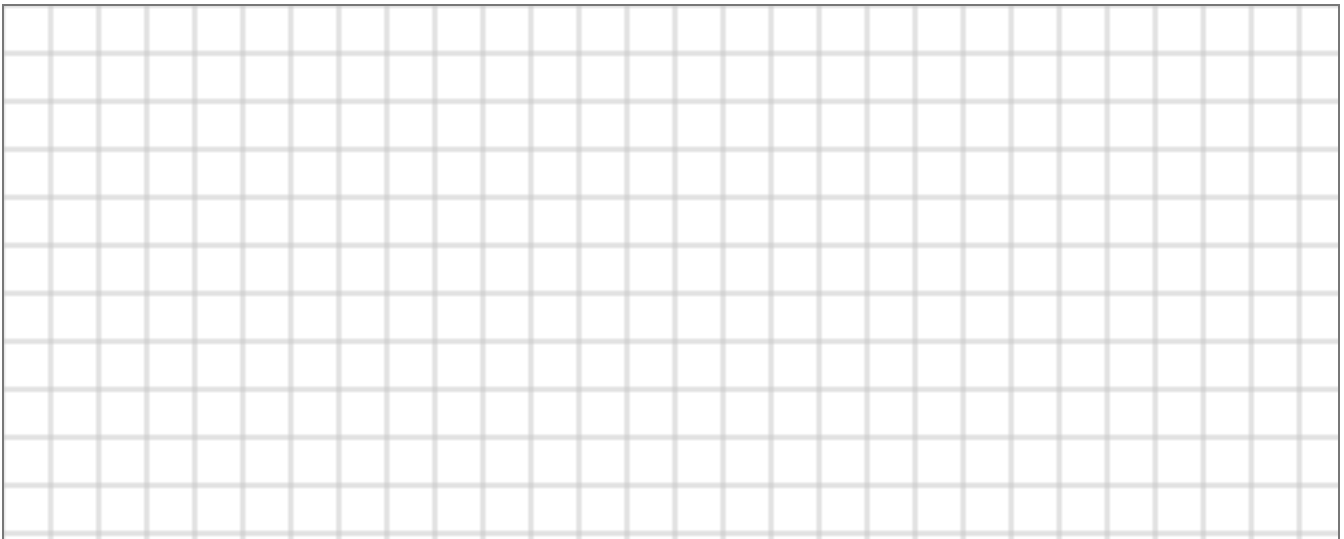
2 How many more people live in Northfield than in Pine Hill?

3 Which community has the smallest population, and what main natural resource is listed for it?

4 A population bar graph would show which community as the second-highest bar? Use its population to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Use the table to create a bar graph of the four community populations. Title the graph, label both axes, and use a scale from 0 to 3,500 marked by 500s. Then write one sentence describing one population pattern you see.



PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that tells where a community is located or names a natural resource. Circle every population number in the table so you can compare how people are distributed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which community has the largest population? What population number supports your answer?	Northfield, 3,200 people.
2	How many more people live in Northfield than in Pine Hill?	2,250 more people.
3	Which community has the smallest population, and what main natural resource is listed for it?	Pine Hill has the smallest population, and its main resource is timber.
4	A population bar graph would show which community as the second-highest bar? Use its population to support your answer.	Lakeview, because it has 2,400 people, the second-largest population.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Title: Riverbend County Population. Horizontal axis: Community. Vertical axis: Population, 0 to 3,500 by 500s. Bars: Northfield 3,200; Pine Hill 950; Stone Flats 1,350; Lakeview 2,400. Northfield has the highest population, while Pine Hill has the lowest.

Accept a bar graph with correctly labeled communities, a reasonable equal-interval scale that includes 3,200, and bars at the four table values. Accept a sentence that accurately compares populations or identifies the highest or lowest population.