

Why Cities Grow

Read how land, water, and travel routes shape settlement.

5.7 "Geography. The student understands the location and patterns of settlement and the geographic factors that influence where people live. The student is expected to: identify and describe the patterns of settlement such as rural, urban..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each of the five urban areas in paragraph 3, then draw an arrow from each name to the words that tell which geographic factor helped it grow. This shows how location influences settlement.

Where People Settle

- ① People settle in different patterns. Rural places have open land, farms, or small towns, with homes spread far apart. Urban places are cities with many people and closely packed buildings. Suburban places lie near cities. They often have homes, schools, and stores, while many residents travel to a nearby city for work. In the United States, population is not spread evenly.
- ② Physical geography and transportation help explain these patterns. People often choose places with water, level land, rich soil, mild weather, natural resources, or routes for travel and trade. Mountains, deserts, very cold areas, and places far from water may have fewer people. Jobs also draw people to cities, especially where ports, railroads, highways, or airports connect workers and goods.
- ③ By metropolitan population, the five largest U.S. urban areas are New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Houston. New York grew around a deep Atlantic harbor. Los Angeles sits on the Pacific coast. Chicago connects Lake Michigan with major rail and road routes. Dallas-Fort Worth is a crossroads of highways and rail lines on level land. Houston uses a Gulf Coast port. They occur in the Northeast, West, Midwest, and South, not one region.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How is a suburban place different from an urban place and a rural place?

2 Name two geographic factors that can attract people to a place, and explain how each can help settlement.

3 How did Chicago's location and Houston's location help each urban area grow?

4 What does the location of the five largest urban areas show about their distribution in the United States?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Name a new U.S. community. In two sentences, identify it as rural, urban, or suburban and explain how two geographic factors would affect where people live there.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each of the five urban areas in paragraph 3, then draw an arrow from each name to the words that tell which geographic factor helped it grow. This shows how location influences settlement. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is a suburban place different from an urban place and a rural place?	A suburban place is near a city and often has homes, schools, and stores. Urban places have many people and closely packed buildings, while rural places have open land or small towns with homes spread farther apart.
2	Name two geographic factors that can attract people to a place, and explain how each can help settlement.	Answers may include water, level land, rich soil, mild weather, natural resources, or travel and trade routes. These features can provide resources, make building or farming easier, or connect people and goods.
3	How did Chicago's location and Houston's location help each urban area grow?	Chicago connects Lake Michigan with major rail and road routes. Houston uses a Gulf Coast port.
4	What does the location of the five largest urban areas show about their distribution in the United States?	They are spread across the Northeast, West, Midwest, and South, rather than located in only one region.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pine Crossing would be a suburban community near a large city. A river and a highway would bring water, travel, and jobs, so more people would live there than in a remote desert.

Accept any accurate settlement pattern and two geographic factors that are clearly connected to population or settlement. Students may use different reasonable examples, as long as their explanation fits the chosen pattern.