

Texas Grows, Needs Change

Analyze how population patterns shape public services.

7.10.D “analyze the effects of the changing population distribution and growth in Texas and the additional need for education, health care, and transportation.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each detail that shows where Texas population is growing or changing. Circle each education, health care, or transportation need that the population pattern helps explain.

Where People Live Matters

- ① Texas has added millions of residents in recent decades, but growth is not spread evenly. Many newcomers settle in large metropolitan areas such as Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio. Suburbs around these cities often grow quickly as families seek homes and jobs. Some rural counties grow slowly or lose residents when young adults move away. This changing distribution means that public services are needed in different places and at different levels of demand.
- ② When a fast-growing suburb gains many school-age children, its school district may need more classrooms, teachers, bus routes, and bilingual services. Building one new school can reduce crowding, but leaders must also plan for future enrollment. Colleges and job-training programs may expand when nearby employers need skilled workers. In a rural area with fewer residents, a district may combine services or use distance learning because supporting many separate programs can be costly for local taxpayers.
- ③ Population growth also changes health care and transportation needs. A neighborhood with thousands of new residents may need additional clinics, doctors, nurses, and emergency services. Without enough providers, patients may travel farther or wait longer for care. More people also create heavier traffic on roads that connect homes to schools and jobs. Cities may add bus service or widen roads, while growing suburbs may need safer sidewalks and transit connections. State and local leaders use population patterns to decide where limited public funds can help most.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the passage show that Texas population growth is distributed unevenly?

2 Why might a fast-growing suburb need more classrooms and bus routes?

3 Compare one way a fast-growing school district and a rural school district may respond to their population patterns.

4 Explain how population growth can lead to heavier traffic and name one transportation response from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a fast-growing Texas suburb. Write 3 or 4 sentences that describe its population change, name two needed public services from different categories, and explain why each service is needed.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each detail that shows where Texas population is growing or changing. Circle each education, health care, or transportation need that the population pattern helps explain. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the passage show that Texas population growth is distributed unevenly?	Many newcomers settle in large metropolitan areas and their suburbs, while some rural counties grow slowly or lose residents.
2	Why might a fast-growing suburb need more classrooms and bus routes?	Many school-age children may move into the suburb, increasing enrollment and the need to transport students.
3	Compare one way a fast-growing school district and a rural school district may respond to their population patterns.	A fast-growing district may add classrooms, teachers, or bus routes. A rural district with fewer residents may combine services or use distance learning.
4	Explain how population growth can lead to heavier traffic and name one transportation response from the passage.	More residents travel between homes, schools, and jobs, creating heavier traffic. A city may add bus service or widen roads, or a suburb may add sidewalks and transit connections.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A fast-growing Texas suburb has gained many families with school-age children. The district should add classrooms and bus routes so students have space to learn and can reach school. The community should also add a clinic because more residents will need nearby health care.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that connect a population pattern to specific education, health care, or transportation needs. For Part 3, the two services must come from different categories and each must include a reasonable explanation.