

Growing City Challenges

Trace how fast population growth changed city services and infrastructure.

USII.3.e “examining the cause-and-effect relationship between rapid population growth and city government services and infrastructure;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each population-growth cause or need, circle the city government response, and number each cause-and-response chain.

Cities Under Pressure

- ① During the late 1800s, factories offered jobs in cities such as Chicago and New York. Immigrants from Europe and African Americans leaving the rural South joined people already moving to cities for work. City populations rose quickly. In crowded neighborhoods, several families sometimes lived in one apartment building. More residents needed clean water, safe streets, schools, transportation, and places to put waste. City governments had to decide how to provide these services for far more people than before.
- ② Rapid growth strained water systems first. Older pipes and wells could not supply enough clean water to every home, and polluted water could spread disease. Governments built reservoirs, laid new water pipes, and created sewer systems to carry waste away. Growth also filled streets with pedestrians, wagons, and later streetcars. Cities paved roads, added streetlights, and expanded transit routes. These projects cost money, so city leaders collected taxes and sometimes borrowed funds to pay for construction.
- ③ Schools and safety services faced similar pressure. When many children lived in a neighborhood, existing classrooms became crowded. City governments opened new schools and hired more teachers. Fire departments also needed more stations, firefighters, and equipment because tightly packed buildings could allow fires to spread quickly. These changes show a cause-and-effect pattern: rapid population growth increased the demand for services and infrastructure, and city governments responded by expanding or improving systems. Responses were not always fast enough, so some residents continued to face overcrowding and unhealthy conditions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What drew many people to cities in the late 1800s, and what happened to city populations as a result?

2 How did rapid population growth create a water problem, and what did governments do to address it?

3 Explain why fire departments needed to expand in crowded city neighborhoods.

4 Why did city leaders collect taxes or borrow funds?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that a town's population doubles after a new factory opens. Write four sentences that explain one population-growth cause, two needs created by growth, and one city government response to each need.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each population-growth cause or need, circle the city government response, and number each cause-and-response chain. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What drew many people to cities in the late 1800s, and what happened to city populations as a result?	Factory jobs drew people to cities, and city populations rose quickly.
2	How did rapid population growth create a water problem, and what did governments do to address it?	Older pipes and wells could not provide enough clean water, and polluted water could spread disease. Governments built reservoirs, laid new pipes, and created sewer systems.
3	Explain why fire departments needed to expand in crowded city neighborhoods.	Tightly packed buildings could allow fires to spread quickly, so fire departments needed more stations, firefighters, and equipment.
4	Why did city leaders collect taxes or borrow funds?	They needed money to pay for projects such as water systems, roads, streetlights, and transit routes.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After a factory opens, Riverton's population doubles. More people need water, so the city builds a larger pumping station and new pipes. More children need classrooms, so leaders open a school and hire teachers. These improvements help the city serve its growing population.

Accept logical cause-and-effect chains in which rapid population growth creates two service or infrastructure needs and the city responds to each. Responses may differ from the sample if they fit the stated needs.