

# A HardCORE History Investigation

## FROM THE FARM TO THE CITY

URBANIZATION IN THE LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> &  
EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION #1: WHY WERE AMERICANS MOVING FROM RURAL AREAS TO URBAN AREAS DURING THE LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES?



### Bell Ringer Activity

Would you rather live in the country or in a big city?  
Why? Explain in at least three complete sentences.

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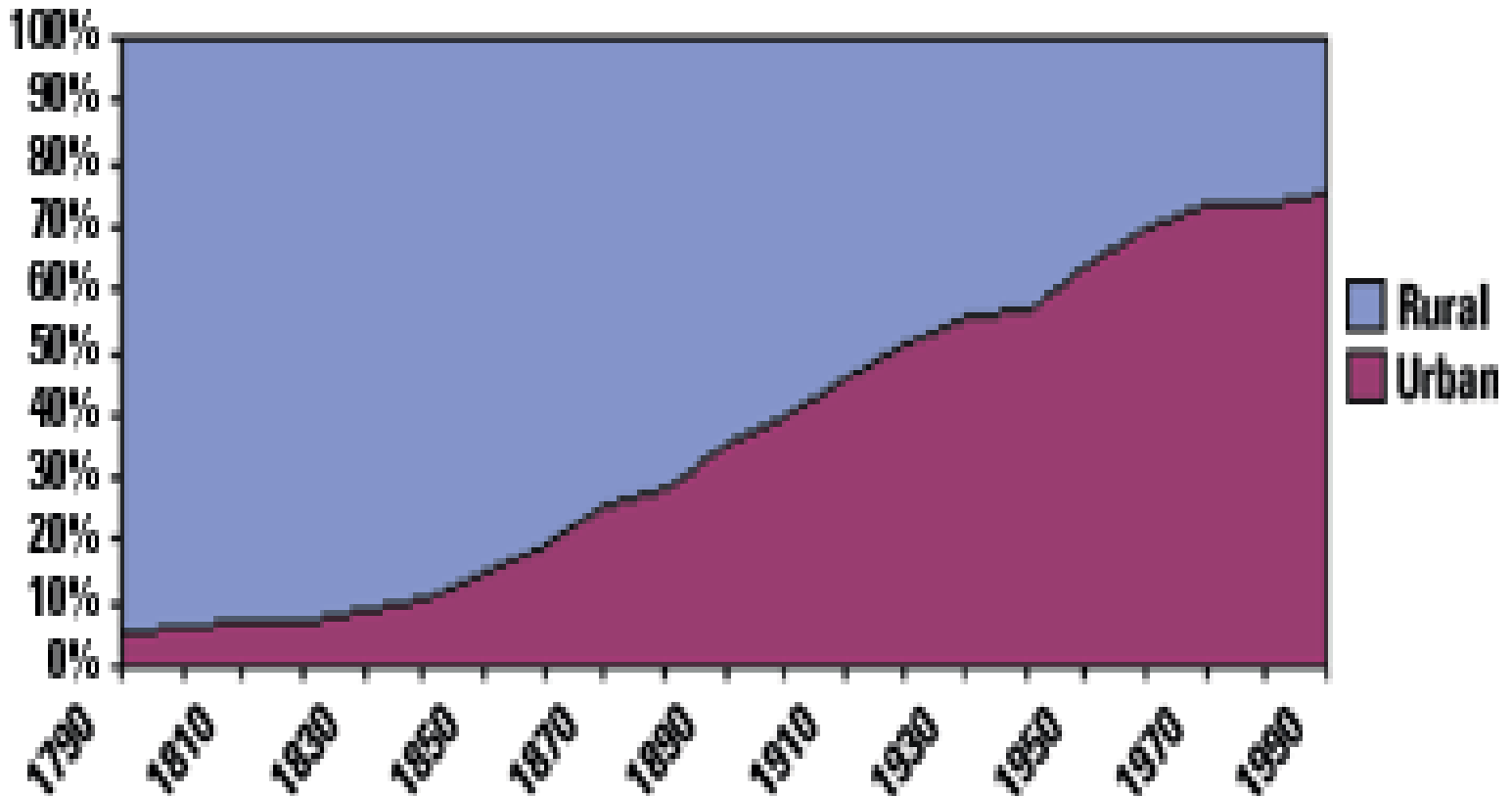
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### Urban Population as a Percentage of U.S. Total



### Discussion Question

*Predict: Between 1850 and 1930, as shown in this chart, what do you think might have caused the rapid decrease in rural population and rapid increase in urban population?*

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### HardCORE History Investigation

Directions: Research just one of the following primary/secondary source sets by answering the following questions for each source set in complete sentences.

#### Source Set One

Source A: <http://bit.ly/UVXrAM>

- 1) Is this a primary or secondary source?
- 2) Why was farming difficult before 1830?
- 3) After the Civil War, many people left the farms for jobs in the cities. Using evidence from this source, why do you think this happened? Think!

Source B: <http://1.usa.gov/VwQtTC>

- 1) Is this a primary or secondary source?
- 2) Why was Harry rewarded with a trip to Chicago?
- 3) Harry marvels at the sight of a trolley car in this source. Why might these types of inventions motivate people to move to cities? Explain.



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### HardCORE History Investigation

#### Source Set Two

Source C: <http://yhoo.it/1yYjVkg>

- 1) According to "Dave S.", what does he say is the "bottom line" reason why people moved from cities to farms?
- 2) What does "Bloodyhands" say is the reason people moved from farms to cities during the Industrial Revolution?
- 3) Do you feel like the answers provided here are credible sources? Would you use these sources in a research paper? Why or why not?

Source D: <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/farmwife.htm>

- 1) Is this a primary or secondary source?
- 2) Write down two quotes from this source that demonstrates that life as a "farmwife" was difficult.
- 3) Many women during this time period preferred to live in cities. Why would this be the case? Explain.

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### HardCORE History Investigation

Now that you have answered questions regarding each of the sources, it's time to use these same sources to develop a historical thesis! Here are the basic components of writing a history based thesis!

- 1) Start with a proper historical thesis sentence!
  - After you have done all your research and gathered your evidence, you can start with your historical thesis. A historical thesis is an evidence-based, one sentence statement that answers the essential question. The thesis sentence must be a statement that you can prove with a multitude of quotes, statistics, and pieces of textual evidence. Typically, the best thesis statements actually use a portion of the essential question with a because statement following it.
- 2) Use three main points to support your thesis statement!
  - To prove your thesis, come up with three main points from three different sources that support your thesis statement. The three main points should be in your own words and also introduce the source being utilized.
- 3) Use textual evidence, quotes, or statistics to back up your main points.
  - After each main point, include a convincing piece of evidence from your source that proves your points.
- 4) Conclude with two sentences that sum up the paragraph.
  - Basically just restate your thesis just using different wording and elaborate on how your argument is important when thinking about this historical topic.

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### HardCORE History Investigation

Directions: Pair up with another student who researched a different source set. Together, using the research you conducted, answer the essential question above using the thesis format in complete sentences.

**\*\*Bonus\*\*** Since this is your first thesis of the unit, I have already provided you with some of the components of your thesis paragraph and some sentence starters!

Thesis: Americans moved from rural areas to urban areas because \_\_\_\_\_.

Point #1: Females in rural areas would prefer city living in comparison to living on a farm if the diary entry composed by an anonymous farm wife in 1900 is any indication of the constant daily labor and chores females endured while living on the farm.

Textual Evidence: In contrast to the conveniences of being a woman in the city, the farm wife complained about \_\_\_\_\_.

Point #2 : Furthermore, according to an online article by the Ohio Historical Society, there was less work on farms because \_\_\_\_\_.

Textual Evidence : The article stated, “ \_\_\_\_\_.”

Point #3: Finally, in Harry Reece's recollection of his first trip to Chicago he was surprised by the \_\_\_\_\_.

Textual Evidence:: \_\_\_\_\_.

Concluding Sentence: As shown by this evidence, urbanization occurred because \_\_\_\_\_.

Urbanization during the early 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century was important in American history because \_\_\_\_\_.

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### Exit Ticket

*Directions: Without looking at your research notes or thesis, answer the essential question above from what you remember from today's activities. Explain your answer in at least four sentences and provide as much detail as possible.*

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### HardCORE History Investigation **Answer Key**

Directions: Research just one of the following primary/ secondary source sets by answering the following questions for each source set in complete sentences.

#### Source Set One

Source A: <http://bit.ly/UVXrAM>

1) Is this a primary or secondary source?

This is a secondary source created by the Ohio Historical Society many years after the late 1800s & early 1900s.

2) Why was farming difficult before 1830?

Most farmers had very little technology and typically had to plant all crops by hand. During the harvest, the only tool they typically had was a sickle, which only allowed a farmer to harvest one acre a day.

3) After the Civil War, many people left the farms for jobs in the cities.

Using evidence from this source, why do you think this happened? Think!

As stated in the source, farm mechanization sped up after the Civil War and with the help of a McCormick reaper, three men could cut and bind twelve acres of grain in a single day by 1870. Farm machinery replaced the need for farm laborers. In need of a job, these farm laborers had to go to factories where there was actually demand for their labor.

Source B: <http://1.usa.gov/VwQtTC>

1) Is this a primary or secondary source?

This is a primary source of Harry Reece's recollection of his first trip to Chicago in the late 1800s. (This could be considered somewhat untrustworthy because he is recalling something that happened years ago.)

2) Why was Harry rewarded with a trip to Chicago?

Harry was working hard at his chores on the farm.

3) Harry marvels at the sight of a trolley car in this source. Why might these types of inventions motivate people to move to cities? Explain.

People from rural areas might come to think that not only are these inventions in urban areas fascinating, but they could make life much simpler. For instance, a farmer who encounters a trolley car might justifiably consider how such a device could make travel easier. Instead of having to walk everywhere or tend to horses everyday, a farmer could move to the city and travel most places he wanted to go to by trolley car.

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### HardCORE History Investigation

#### Source Set Two

Source C: <http://yhoo.it/1yYjVkg>

- 1) According to “Dave S.”, what does he say is the “bottom line” reason why people moved from cities to farms? *The demand for workers was much greater in industrialized cities than on farms and they moved to where the jobs were.*
- 2) What does “Bloodyhands” say is the reason people moved from farms to cities during the Industrial Revolution? *Farm machinery replaced the need for human labor in rural areas and machinery in the cities actually increased the need for cheap labor in urban areas.*
- 3) Do you feel like the answers provided here are credible sources? Would you use these sources in a research paper? Why or why not? *These sources are likely not credible since they are posted on a site in which anyone can anonymously post an answer. For instance, a fourth grader who likes to play around on the internet could post on this site completely false answers with faulty statistics. Therefore, no one—hopefully—would use this site to write a research paper because the information here cannot be trusted.*

Source D: <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/farmwife.htm>

- 1) Is this a primary or secondary source? *This is a primary source of a rural woman's diary from the early 1900s.*
- 2) Write down two quotes from this source that demonstrates that life as a “farmwife” was difficult. *“By the time the work is done in the kitchen it is about 7.15 A. M., and the cool morning hours have flown, and no hoeing done in the garden yet, and the children's toilet has to be attended to and churning has to be done.” and “11.30 A. M. We come in, and I comb my hair, and put fresh flowers in it, and eat a cold dinner, put out feed and water for the chickens; set a hen, perhaps, sweep the floors again; sit down and rest, and read a few moments, and it is nearly one O' clock,”*
- 3) Many women during this time period preferred to live in cities. Why would this be the case? Explain. *As demonstrated in this source, women on farms not only were responsible for extensive chores around the farm, but they also had to deal with not having modern conveniences that women in the city enjoyed. For instance, not only would a city woman not have to feed the livestock and churn butter, but they would likely have a toilet with running water and they could buy butter and eggs at a local store.*

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**HardCORE History Investigation**

**Rubric Checklist for Thesis Paragraph**

\_\_\_\_/10 pts total

1) Constructs a thesis that is a well-reasoned, evidence based statement that answers the essential question.

\_\_\_\_/2 pts

Comments:

2) The main points support the thesis and introduces a piece of textual evidence by providing source information.

\_\_\_\_/3 pts

Comments:

3) The pieces of textual evidence support the thesis and preceding main point and is relevant to answering the essential question.

\_\_\_\_/3 pts

Comments:

4) The conclusion restates the thesis, sums up the paragraph, and explains the historical significance.

\_\_\_\_/2 pts

Comments:

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**HardCORE History Investigation**

**Rubric Checklist for Exit Ticket**

\_\_\_\_/4 pts total

1) Answers the essential question thoroughly and in the appropriate amount of sentences.

\_\_\_\_/2 pts

Comments:

2) The answer demonstrates understanding of the research conducted and proper application of evidence found in historical sources.

\_\_\_\_/2 pts

Comments: