



# Cities Grow and Change

## Objectives

1. Explain why cities grew in the late 1800s.
2. Describe the problems city dwellers faced and the efforts to improve city life.
3. Identify the attractions and leisure activities cities offered.

## Prepare to Read

### Reading Skill

**Use Latin Word Origins** Latin roots can be paired with different prefixes or suffixes to create related words. For example, the root *port* means “carry.” Paired with the prefix *sub-*, meaning “beneath,” it is the root of the English word *support*, meaning “carry from beneath.” Paired with the prefix *im-*, meaning “in or toward,” it is the root of the English word *import*, meaning “carry into.” As you read, look for examples of words that share a Latin root.

## Vocabulary Builder

### High-Use Words

accelerate, p. 621

clinic, p. 622

### Key Terms and People

urbanization, p. 620

tenement, p. 622

Jane Addams, p. 622

settlement house, p. 622

## Main Idea

Industrialization, migration, and technology all contributed to the growth of American cities.

 **Background Knowledge** You have seen how American industry boomed in the late 1800s. In this section, you will learn how the industrial age reshaped American cities.

## Rapid Growth of Cities

“We cannot all live in cities,” wrote journalist Horace Greeley, “yet nearly all seem determined to do so.” Greeley was describing the growth of American cities in the late 1800s.

**Urbanization** The rate of urbanization was astonishing. Urbanization is the rapid growth of city populations. In 1860, only one American in five was a city dweller. By 1890, one in three lived in a city. For the first time, the United States had cities the sizes of London and Paris.

The reason for this rapid urbanization was simple. Cities attracted industry, and industry attracted people. Farmers, immigrants, and African Americans from the South all migrated to cities in search of jobs and excitement.

Many fast-growing cities were located near waterways. New York and San Francisco had excellent ocean harbors. Chicago rose on the shores of Lake Michigan. Cities near waterways drew industry because they provided easy transport for goods.



### Use Latin Word Origins

Use the Latin root *tract*, meaning “pull or drag,” to define the word *attracting*. Then, name at least one other related word that shows the influence of this root.

**Growing Out and Up** New technology helped cities grow. Elevated trains carried passengers over crowded streets. In 1887, the first electric streetcar system opened in Richmond, Virginia. Ten years later, the nation's first electric subway trains began running beneath the streets of Boston.

Public transportation gave rise to suburbs, living areas on the outskirts of a city. People no longer had to live in cities to work in cities. Steel bridges also accelerated suburban growth. The Brooklyn Bridge, completed in 1883, linked the city center in Manhattan to outlying Brooklyn. As a result, New York City was able to spread out to house its growing population.

Cities began to expand upward as well as outward. In 1885, architects in Chicago constructed the first 10-story building. People called it a "skyscraper" because its top seemed to touch the sky. By 1900, steel-framed skyscrapers up to 30 stories high towered over cities. Electric elevators whisked office workers to the upper floors.

As cities grew outward from their old downtown sections, living patterns changed. Many cities took on a similar shape. Poor families crowded into the oldest sections at the city's center. Middle-class people lived farther out in row houses or new apartment buildings. The rich built fine homes on the outskirts of the city.

**Checkpoint** How did technology change city life?

## Problems of Urban Life

Rapid urbanization brought many problems. Fire was a constant threat in tightly packed neighborhoods. In 1871, fire engulfed Chicago. Winds blew flames across the city faster than a person could run. The Chicago Fire leveled 3 square miles of downtown, killed 300 people, and left 18,000 homeless.

### Vocabulary Builder

**accelerate** (ak SEL er ayt) v. to increase in speed

### Main Idea

As cities grew, they faced a variety of problems, especially in the poorest neighborhoods.



#### Explore More Video

To learn more about the changes in city life, view the video.

**A Changing City** Cities underwent great changes in the late 1800s. The photograph shows a Chicago street in 1900.

**Critical Thinking: Link Past and Present** Describe two ways a picture of this street today might look different.

Elevated railroad



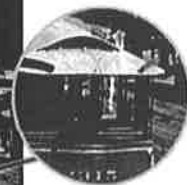
12-story skyscraper



Rapidly growing population



Electric streetcar





### A Tenement Family

This photograph shows a family in their New York tenement apartment. **Critical Thinking:**

**Clarify Problems** Based on this photograph and your reading, identify one problem this family might face daily.

### Vocabulary Builder

**clinic** (KLIHN ihk) *n.* place where people receive medical treatment, often for free or for a small fee

**Tenement Life** In downtown slums, the poor lived in bleak conditions. People crowded into **tenements**, buildings divided into many tiny apartments. Many apartments had no windows, heat, or indoor plumbing. Often, 10 people might live in a single room. Several families shared a single bathroom.

Slum streets were littered with garbage. Outbreaks of cholera and other diseases were common. Babies ran the greatest risk. In one Chicago slum, half of all babies died before the age of one.

**Improving City Life** In the 1880s, cities began to improve urban life. They installed streetlights and set up fire, sanitation, and police departments. Public health officials waged war on disease.

Religious groups served the poor. Mother Cabrini, a Catholic nun, set up hospitals and **clinics** for people who could not afford a doctor. The Salvation Army, founded by a Methodist minister, gave food, clothing, and shelter to the homeless.

**Settlement Houses** Reformers like Jane Addams worked hard for poor city dwellers. Addams came from a well-to-do family, but she felt strong sympathy for the poor. In 1889, she opened Hull House, a settlement house in the slums of Chicago. A **settlement house** is a center offering help to the urban poor. Soon, reformers—most of them women—had started settlement houses in other major cities.

At settlement houses, volunteers taught English to immigrants, sponsored music and sports for young people, and provided nurseries for children of working mothers. Addams and other settlement house leaders also pressured state legislatures to outlaw child labor.

**Checkpoint** What problems did tenement dwellers face?

## The Excitement of City Life

Despite hardships, cities offered attractions that were not available in the country. Newcomers were awed by electric lights that turned night into day, elevated railroads rumbling overhead, and tall buildings that seemed to pierce the clouds.

**Department Stores** Downtown shopping areas attracted hordes of people. People came to buy the goods pouring in from American factories. To meet the needs of shoppers, merchants developed a new type of store, the department store.

Earlier, people had bought shirts in one store, boots in another, and lamps in a third. A department store offered all of these goods in separate sections of the same store. Shoppers could wander from floor to floor, bathed in light from crystal chandeliers. Elegant window displays advertised the goods for sale.

**Leisure Activities** Long hours on the job made people value their free time. This strict division between work and play led to a new interest in leisure. To meet this need, cities provided a wealth of entertainment. Almost every museum, orchestra, art gallery, and theater was located in a city. Circuses drew audiences with elephants, lions, acrobats, and clowns.

In the 1850s, Frederick Law Olmsted planned Central Park in New York. Other cities followed suit. Parks, zoos, and gardens allowed urban dwellers to enjoy green grass and open air.

### Main Idea

Cities lured newcomers with a wide variety of attractions and leisure activities.

## Cause and Effect

### CAUSES

- Growth of industries in cities attracted workers.
- African Americans from the South and immigrants sought a better life.
- Many cities near waterways attracted industries.
- Technological advances led cities to construct subways, trolleys, streetlights, bridges, and skyscrapers.
- Many leisure activities that cities provided drew people to urban areas.

### URBANIZATION

### EFFECTS

- Urban transportation systems enabled people to live in one part of the city and work in another.
- Flood of people into cities led to teeming neighborhoods that became slums.
- Improvements in transportation gave rise to suburbs.

### Reading Charts

#### Skills Activity

The movement of large numbers of people to cities was one of the biggest social changes of the late 1800s.

- (a) **Interpret Charts** How did technology encourage the growth of cities?
- (b) **Analyze Cause and Effect** Why was the growth of industry a cause of urbanization?



Early baseball glove and baseball card

**Sports** Americans had always enjoyed outdoor games. Not until after the Civil War, however, did professional sports teams begin to spring up in cities. The most popular sport by far was baseball. A guidebook of the time noted:

“Base ball first taught us Americans the value of physical exercise as an important aid . . . in cultivating the mind up to its highest point. It is to the introduction of base ball as a national pastime, in fact, that the growth of athletic sports in general in popularity is largely due.”

—Spalding's Official Base Ball Guide, 1889

The first professional team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, appeared in 1869. Only seven years later, teams from eight cities formed the National League of Professional Baseball Clubs. A game might draw as many as 5,000 fans, loudly rooting for their city's home team. African American players, banned from the majors in the 1880s, formed their own professional baseball league.

In 1891, James Naismith nailed two peach baskets to the walls of a gym in Springfield, Massachusetts. He handed players a soccer ball and challenged them to throw the ball in the basket. The new game, called basketball, became a favorite winter sport. Football was also popular. At the time, the sport was brutal and dangerous. Players wore no helmets. In one season, 44 college players died of injuries.

**Checkpoint** What leisure activities did city dwellers enjoy?

★ **Looking Back and Ahead** You have already learned that immigration contributed to the growth of cities. In the next section, you will take a closer look at immigrant life.

## Section 3 | Check Your Progress

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### Comprehension and Critical Thinking

- (a) Describe** Why did cities grow rapidly after the Civil War?

**(b) Apply Information** What role did technology play in urbanization? Give at least two examples.
- (a) Identify** What type of housing did poor city dwellers live in?

**(b) Identify Benefits** Why do you think many people wanted to live in cities in spite of harsh conditions?

### Reading Skill

- Use Latin Word Origins** The Latin root *urb* means “city.” How does this influence the meaning of the term suburb? What other word in Section 3 shows the influence of the root *urb*?

### Vocabulary Builder

Read each sentence below. If the sentence is true, write YES. If the sentence is not true, write NO and explain why.

- Urbanization** was the result of people moving to western farms.

- Tenements were apartments used by the wealthy.
- Settlement houses** provided needed services for city dwellers.

### Writing

- “Life in a city is more rewarding than life outside a city.” List two or three arguments in favor of this opinion and two or three arguments opposing this opinion.