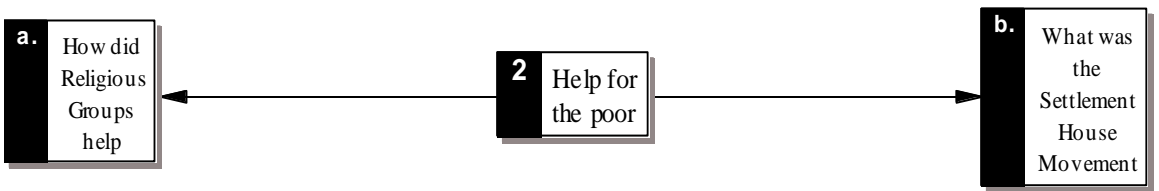
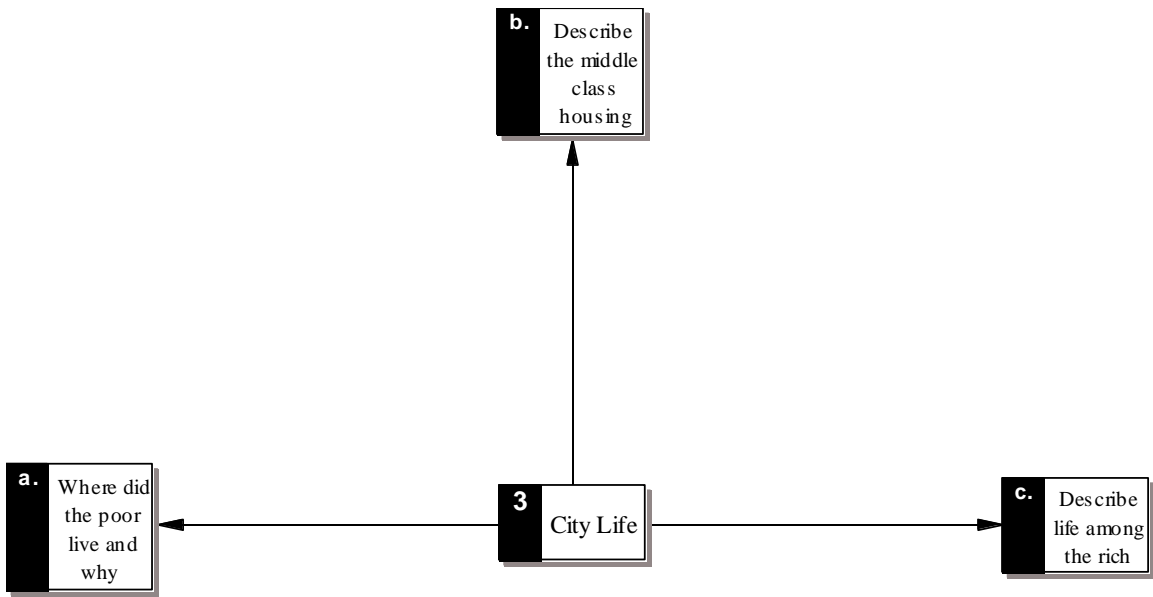


The Growth of Cities





The Growth of Cities

4 Problems

## Causes

**Jobs:** As factories expanded across the nation it became clear that our large cities would expand as well. Monopolists like Andrew Carnegie were building mammoth factories 80 football fields long and would need thousands of workers to run them. People from all over the country made the decision to move to cities because they knew there would be a job waiting for them when they did.

**Immigration:** Another reason for the rapid growth of cities was the millions of immigrants pouring into the country in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Immigrants knew they could find work in cities immediately without learning or knowing English. Also the huge Ethnic Neighborhoods of the cities promised a place where they move and find other people who shared a language and culture with them making it much easier to assimilate.

**African Americans:** After the Civil War 95% of all African Americans lived in the South working for next to nothing and suffering intense discrimination. When word of the thousands of jobs available in Northeastern cities reached them, close to 2 million African Americans made the decision to leave the South and travel to the cities to find work.

**Farmers:** With the passage of free land acts like the Homestead Act, millions of Americans moved all over the country to become farmers. Unfortunately, one result of this was the lowering of prices for all farm grown products. Most farmers were dirt poor and totally depended on the weather and land for their income. The promise of a steady paycheck and guaranteed work convinced thousands of farmers to leave rural areas and move to the big city.

## Help for the Poor



**Religious Help:** Many groups looked to help the poor in America during the Age of Immigration. The Catholic Church tended to the needs of many Irish, Polish and Italian immigrants. One Italian nun, Mother Cabrini, opened more than 70 hospitals. Protestant groups also gave help to the poor. The Salvation Army, founded in 1865 in London, expanded to the United States and offered food and shelter to the poor. The YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) and YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) taught classes, organized team sports and offered other free activities that presented an escape from life in the slums.

**Settlement Houses:** A Settlement House is a community center that offers services to the poor. By the late 1800's many of these centers were opening up around the country. The most famous, Hull House, provided medical help, education, child care and more to the poor and immigrants that were flooding into the cities. Settlement House leaders also urged the government to spend more money to help to the poor.



## City Life



**The Poor:** Poor families struggled to survive in the crowded inner cities. Because space was so limited, builders were forced to put up 6 or 7 story tenements that did not have windows, heat or indoor bathrooms. Immigrants lived in these apartments because it was the only shelter they could afford and it was close to the factories they worked in.

**The Middle Class:** Beyond the slums stood the suburbs where the homes of the new middle class. Doctors, lawyers, office workers and business managers lived in rows of neat houses on tree shaded streets. Here, disease and crime rarely broke out.

**The Rich:** On the outer rim of the city, lay the huge mansions of the rich. These millionaires traveled to Europe taking vacations and buying priceless art. They threw lavish parties and attended social events. At one party, the host handed out cigarettes rolled in hundred dollar bills!

