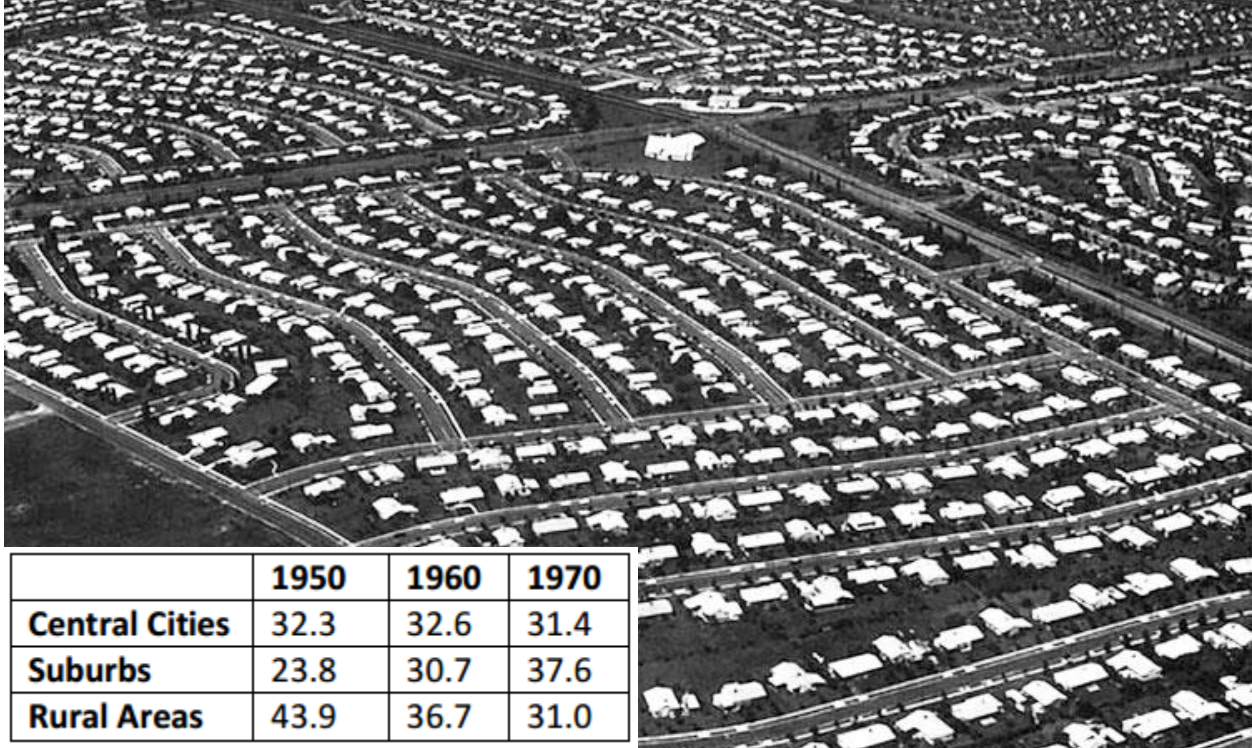


Warm-Up: “Levittowns”



The *baby boom* and the *suburban boom* went hand in hand. Almost as soon as World War II ended, developers such as William Levitt began to buy land on the outskirts of cities (suburbs) and use mass-production techniques to build simple, inexpensive tract houses there. Levitt’s communities were known as “Levittowns.” The *G.I. Bill* subsidized low-cost mortgages for returning soldiers, which meant that it was often cheaper to buy one of these suburban houses than it was to rent an apartment in the city.

These houses were perfect for young families—they had informal “family rooms,” open floor plans and backyards—and so suburban developments earned nicknames like “Fertility Valley” and “The Rabbit Hutch.” By 1960, suburban baby boomers and their parents comprised one-third of the population of the United States.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO](#)

1. What does this video show you about the houses in Levittown?
2. What does the picture tell you about suburban neighborhoods?
3. What does the chart above tell you about the changes that took place in where Americans were living from 1950 to 1970?
4. Why were track houses (houses built in Levittowns) attractive to returning WWII veterans and their young families?