

***Problems Arise as Cities Grow*****RETEACHING ACTIVITY****Chapter 19, Section 1**

**Directions:** Read the summary below. Then use the information to answer the questions that follow. You will then understand some of the problems urban America faced in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Urbanization, the movement of people from the country to the city, occurred mainly in the northeastern United States. Workers came to cities to work in factories, mills, transportation systems, and trade and service occupations. Many people came from farms, while others came from abroad.

This rapid growth caused problems for the cities. City workers often lived in boardinghouses or apartment houses. The first apartment house was built in New York City in 1870. Middle-class people, however, preferred row houses. Row houses had indoor toilets, constant and regular heat, gas or electric lights, and, sometimes, refrigerators.

Poor people lived in multifamily dwellings called tenements, which were overcrowded and dirty. New York City had the nation's worst tenements. In 1879 a law calling for the construction of dumbbell tenements—long, narrow buildings in which each room had an outside window—was passed. These new tenements were supposed to be an improvement in that light and air were available in each apartment. However, because of overcrowding and poor sanitation, dumbbell tenements sometimes became worse than other tenements.

Transportation in the cities was also a problem. Horse-drawn cars were small and slow. New York was the first city to build an elevated railway to improve transportation. In 1873 San Francisco installed a cable-car system pulled by a moving underground chain.

Cities also had sanitation problems. Sewers emptied directly into nearby rivers, creating a health hazard.

As the cities grew, so did crime. Pickpockets, shoplifters, and counterfeiters were active. Violent crime increased as well. The small police forces found it difficult to prevent crime in the streets.

Fire was an ever-present hazard. The 1871 fire in Chicago left one-third of that city's people homeless. Many other American cities also suffered major fires during the 1870's and 1880's. In 1853 the city of Cleveland, Ohio, established the nation's first salaried fire department. Other cities followed Cleveland's example. The automatic fire sprinkler, invented in 1877, was an aid to firefighters. Over time, wooden buildings were replaced by ones made of brick, stone, and concrete, which posed less danger of fire.

African Americans were forced to live in ghettos, the worst sections of the cities, as a result of de facto segregation—segregation supported by custom rather than by law. De facto segregation developed because of the

prejudice and competition for jobs. In the ghettos, some African Americans started businesses that served their own people—for example, hairdressing, undertaking, and life insurance sales. As a result, a black middle class developed in the nation's cities.

1. What is urbanization?

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2. What are three occupations that brought workers to the cities?

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3. What three types of housing were available in cities?

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4. What was a dumbbell tenement?

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5. How did New York City improve transportation?

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6. What sanitation problem did people in the cities have?

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7. What were three improvements cities made in fighting fires?

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8. What city first paid its firefighters?

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9. What is de facto segregation?

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10. What developed as African Americans started businesses that served other African Americans?

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