**Urbanization Handout**

Historians often analyze demographic data to gain a deeper understanding of the trends that shaped an era. To complete our study of the Gilded Age, we’ll “do the numbers” to see what they reveal about the time. Before going to the numbers, examine the images.

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|  | 1. List two features observed in each of the six **historical images of Chicago**. 2. Note two descriptive terms for each image 3. How did Chicago change between 1850 and the early 1900s? 4. What might be some positive and negative results of these changes? |
|  | 1. Write the definition of **urbanization** in your own words: |
|  | **What do cities do?**   1. List the four main functions of cities:   **C**  **T**  **M**  **S**  \* Place a star next to the functions which were in more demand due to industrialism   1. Which of these do you think are functions of Houston? (list related letter(s)?   Chicago in the late 1800s and early 1900s? |
|  | **Why do people move to cities?**   1. List pull factors which were drawing people away from farms and into cities around the turn of the century. 2. How is life likely to be different in the city than it was on the farm? Use evidence from the images of Chicago to support your answer. |
|  | **Why are cities where they are?**   1. Examine the map of the top ten cities in the US. What physical features do they share? 2. Why would being located near this feature be important for cities? (Hint: Think economic and infrastructure) |
|  | Answer the following questions about the charts included in the PowerPoint presentation. The graphs are letter-coded to help you identify which graph to use to answer the questions.  **Graph A: Urban Growth**   1. Examine this graph closely. What two aspects of city growth does the graph indicate? 2. What percent of the United States population lived in cities of 500,000 or more by the turn of the century? 3. What factors contributed to the growth of cities in the late 19th Century? |
|  | **Graph B: Growth of Cities**   1. What was the single most deadly disease in both time periods defined by the graph? 2. Why were death rates so high in 19th century cities? 3. What factors contributed to a decline in urban death rates? |
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|  | **Graph C: Concentration of Immigrant Groups in Cities**  This is a tricky graph, but it reveals an interesting trend.   1. Which groups were most likely to live in cities? least likely? 2. How might native-born Americans feel about the cities and the people living in them in the late 1800s? 3. Based on the pattern seen in this graph, what issues might cities face? |
|  | **Graph D: Percentage of Labor Force in Agriculture**   1. What period does this graph cover? 2. When did the steepest decline take place in the proportion of American workers earning their livelihood in agriculture? |
|  | **Graph E: Rural and Urban Population**   1. How many more people lived in the United States in 1900 than 1870? 2. How did the rural population change compared with urban population? |
|  | **Concluding Activity**  Create a brochure to explain the political, economic, and ideological factors which encouraged population shifts to urban centers and the resulting political and social problems rapid growth of cities caused.  As an introduction to your brochure, include a short summary of urbanization. Be sure to include details related to the demographic changes that occurred in the United States during the Gilded Age and information about related migration (farm-city and immigration) in your brochure.  Brochure may be created as a tri-fold paper brochure or an electronic portfolio/brochure. |