



Assessment Questions Mentioned in Shannon Garrison's Statement

Please look at this PDF to view sample assessment questions from The Nation's Report Card: Geography 2010, Grades 4, 8 and 12.

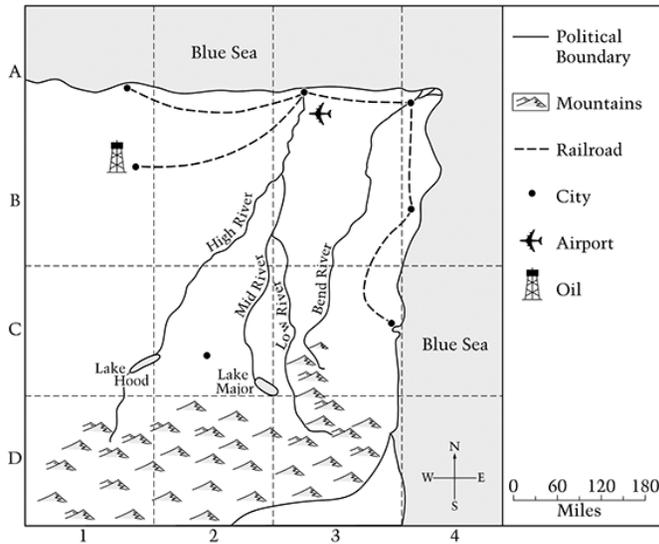
Please visit the NAEP Questions Tool at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx/landing.aspx> to access additional geography assessment questions.

For questions, please contact Stephaan Harris at (202) 357-7504 or Stephaan.Harris@ed.gov.

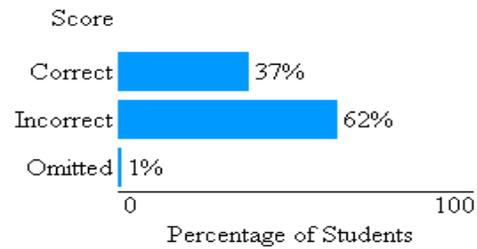
GRADE 4

About how far is Lake Hood from Lake Major?

- A. 5 miles
- B. 60 miles
- C. 80 miles
- D. 140 miles



The correct answer is D.



GRADE 4

Look at the four groups of place names below. Which group is arranged in order of size from largest to smallest?

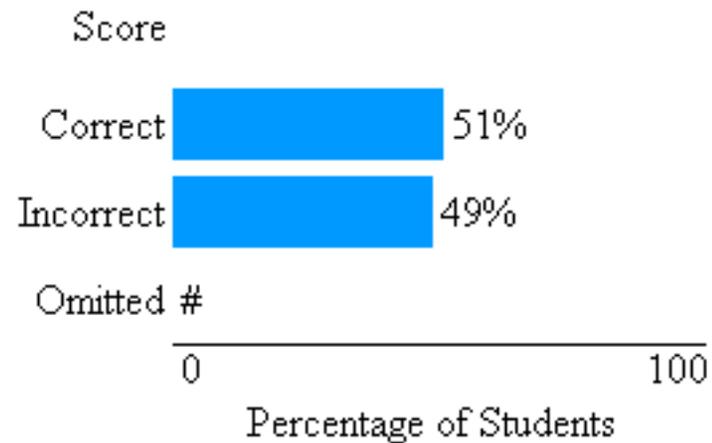
A. United States
California
North America
Los Angeles

B. North America
United States
California
Los Angeles

C. North America
California
United States
Los Angeles

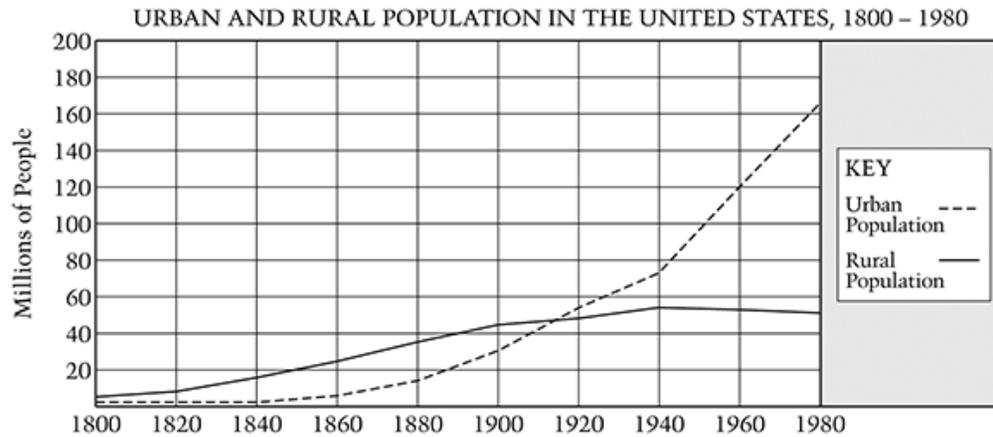
D. United States
North America
Los Angeles
California

The correct answer is B.



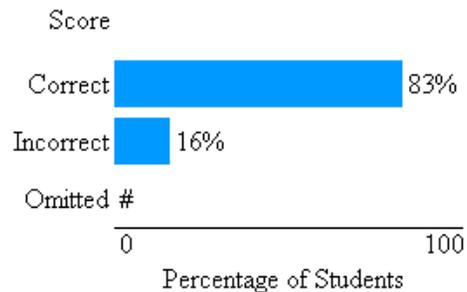
GRADE 8

During which twenty-year period did the urban and rural populations of the United States equal each other?

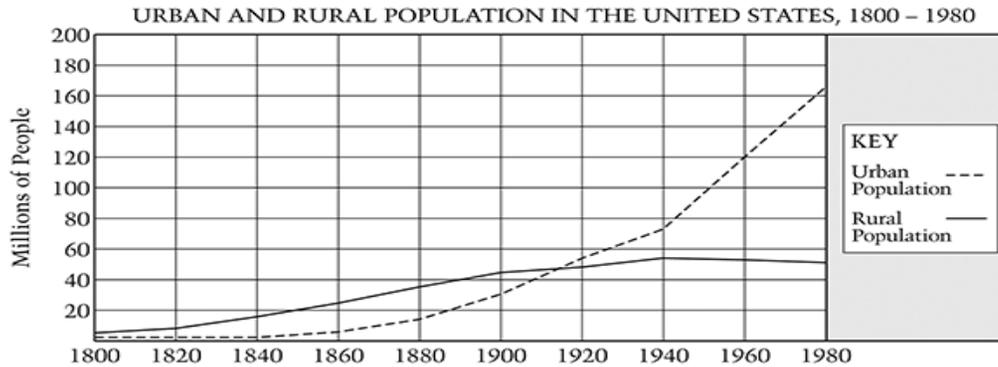


- A. 1860-1880
- B. 1900-1920
- C. 1920-1940
- D. 1940-1960

The correct answer is B.



GRADE 8



Give two specific reasons that explain why the population changes shown in the graph have occurred.

Scoring Guide

Score & Description

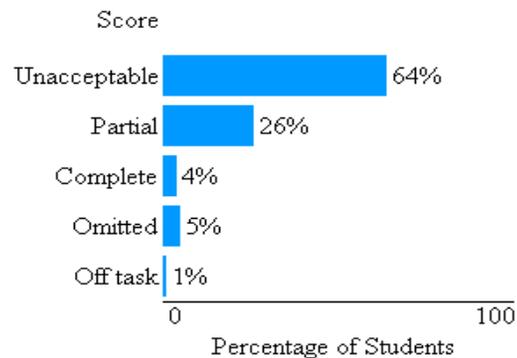
Complete: The response identifies two reasons that explain why the population shifts from rural to urban as shown in the graph.

Partial: The response identifies one reason that explains why the population shifts from rural to urban as shown in the graph.

Unacceptable: The response does not correctly identify any significant factor contributing to the shift of population from rural to urban areas as shown in the graph.

Examples of possible credited responses:

1. Rise in urban-based industrial jobs
2. Loss of jobs in rural areas due to mechanization of agriculture



Complete - Student Response

4. Give two specific reasons that explain why the population changes shown in the graph have occurred.

As more and more people moved to the U.S. many chose to live in cities because there are more people and more things to do, there may be more jobs offered in the city and when people immigrate, they may chose to stay in the place where they landed, a city

4. Give two specific reasons that explain why the population changes shown in the graph have occurred.

Machinery was inveted and made rural farm life easier and people moved to the Urban Area also there were many job openings in the Urban

Scorer Comments:

The responses identify two reasons that explain why the population shifts from rural to urban as shown in the graph.

Partial - Student Response

4. Give two specific reasons that explain why the population changes shown in the graph have occurred.

There are more jobs in urban areas now.

4. Give two specific reasons that explain why the population changes shown in the graph have occurred.

There are more job opportunities in the city. There are not many people who want to move from city to suburbs.

Scorer Comments:

In the first response, "there are more jobs in urban areas now" is credited. In the second response, "There are more job opportunities in the city" is credited.

Unacceptable - Student Response

4. Give two specific reasons that explain why the population changes shown in the graph have occurred.

Because the population is growing, and
there could be more pollution in the
rural areas

4. Give two specific reasons that explain why the population changes shown in the graph have occurred.

In urban areas, more people have
decided to move there because
of the popularity of the cities. A lot
of people are still moving to rural
areas but they just aren't as popular.

Scorer Comments:

The responses do not correctly identify any significant factor contributing to the shift of population from rural to urban areas as shown in the graph.

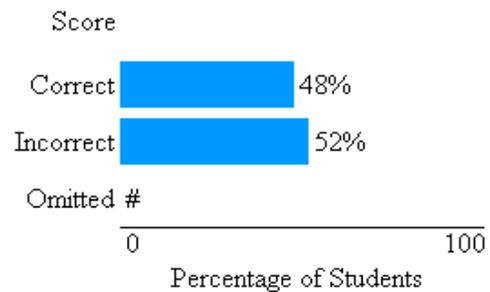
GRADE 8

Early settlers on the North American Great Plains used sod to build houses such as the one shown above primarily because



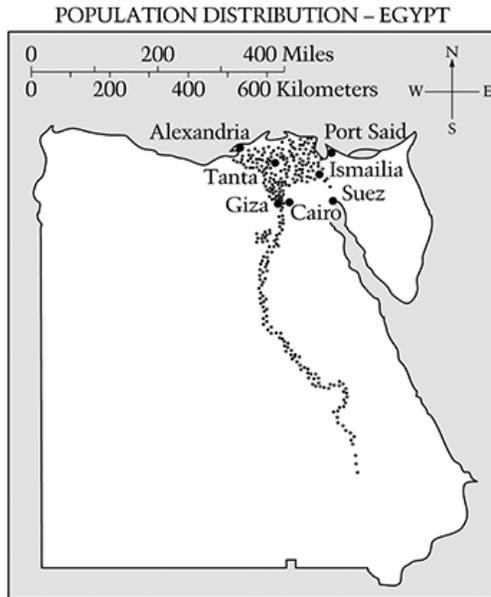
- A. they did not have experience building with wood
- B. sod offered greater protection than wood from cold weather
- C. there was little wood available for building
- D. wood houses were vulnerable to prairie fires

The correct answer is: C



GRADE 8

The dots on the map below show the population distribution of Egypt. Being as specific as possible, explain the reasons for this distribution.



Score & Description

Complete

Response indicates that the population is distributed along the Nile River and explains the distribution.

Partial

a) Response indicates that the population is distributed along the Nile River but does not explain the distribution.

OR

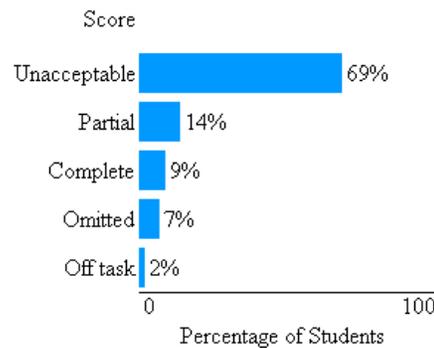
b) Response describes the impact of water on population distribution, but it does not mention the Nile specifically.

Unacceptable

The response does not indicate that the population is distributed along a river and it fails to explain the presence of water as the crucial influence on population distribution.

Examples of possible credited responses:

1. Fertile soil along the river
2. Irrigation for crops



Complete - Student Response

12. The dots on the map above show the population distribution of Egypt. Being as specific as possible, explain the reasons for this distribution.

The population distribution in Egypt is centered mainly around the Nile R., which is one of the only fertile regions in Egypt. Not to mention the main source of trade travel. The Nile Delta area hosts all of Egypt's major cities and the heaviest population density in the country.

12. The dots on the map above show the population distribution of Egypt. Being as specific as possible, explain the reasons for this distribution.

The people lived here because the Nile River ran through there. It made the land fertile and life possible.

Scorer Comments:

Responses indicate that the population is distributed along the Nile River and explain the distribution.

Partial - Student Response

12. The dots on the map above show the population distribution of Egypt. Being as specific as possible, explain the reasons for this distribution.

The dots are at the mouth and on the shore of the Nile River.

12. The dots on the map above show the population distribution of Egypt. Being as specific as possible, explain the reasons for this distribution.

Where the most populated places are, there are big cities and it's at the base of a river. The population or dots follow the river. As the river gets smaller and further down the country the population decreases because there will be less resources for them there.

Scorer Comments:

The first response indicates that the population is distributed along the Nile River but does not explain the distribution. The second response describes the impact of water on population distribution, but it does not mention the Nile specifically.

Unacceptable - Student Response

12. The dots on the map above show the population distribution of Egypt. Being as specific as possible, explain the reasons for this distribution.

The reason for the population distribution where it is, is because Egypt is at the top of Africa and the Egyptians would export to Europe and import many things as well so there was a great amount of job openings there.

12. The dots on the map above show the population distribution of Egypt. Being as specific as possible, explain the reasons for this distribution.

The population of Egypt was so big in the northern part of Egypt, where Cairo is located at that they started moving towards the south so they wouldn't be so crowded.

Scorer Comments:

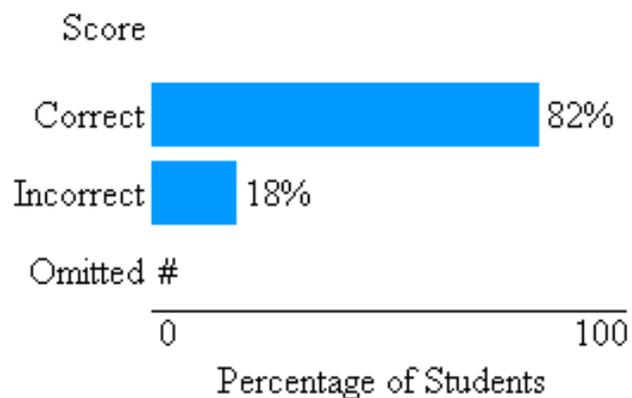
The responses do not indicate that the population is distributed along a river and fail to explain the presence of water as the crucial influence on population distribution.

Grade 12

Worldwide, the greatest number of people who emigrate from one country to another today do so because they

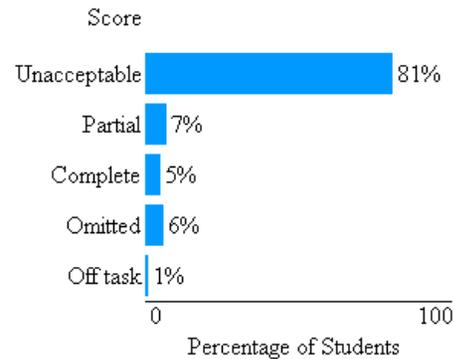
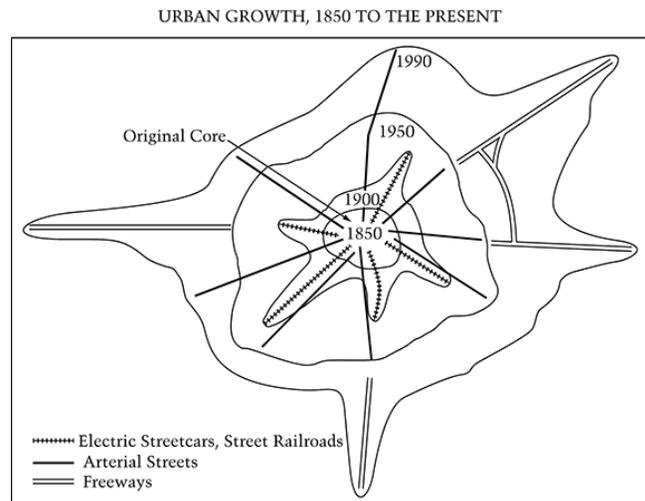
- A. believe that moving will help them economically
- B. believe that moving will give them greater religious freedom
- C. like the climate better in their new country
- D. have been expelled from their native countries

The correct answer is A.



Grade 12

This question refers to the image below.



What does the diagram above show about the process and form of urban growth between 1850 and 1990?

Credited responses could include:

Phases of Urban Growth

1. 1850s: City is constrained by limits of transportation. Transportation is by foot or horse and cart.
2. 1900s: City expands outward and follows transportation lines of the streetcar and railroad.
3. 1950s: City expands outward, and city form evens out, influenced by the widely available road systems. The speed of the automobile allows the more extensive outgrowth of the city.
4. 1990s: City expands outward, and city form becomes star-shaped as it follows major highways. The construction of the highway system and the widespread availability of the automobile allows the extensive outer growth of the city.

Complete: Response relates the pattern of urban growth to developments in transportation technologies OR to the different modes of transportation shown in the diagram. It may do this by referring to distance people can live from the core.

Partial: Response indicates that urban growth is related to developments in transportation technologies but does not specify the pattern of urban growth.

Unacceptable. Response does not indicate the relationship between urban growth and developments in transportation indicated in the diagram, or it misinterprets the relationship.

Complete - Student Response

15. What does the diagram above show about the process and form of urban growth between 1850 and 1990 ?

As our forms of transportation advanced,
the area which we covered also grew.
The later the year, the more technology
we gained and could therefore, go farther
distances.

15. What does the diagram above show about the process and form of urban growth between 1850 and 1990 ?

The diagram shows that urban growth
spread with modes and passage of transportation
As the roads and railroads spread from the
core, the city did too.

Scorer Comments:

The responses indicate that the population expands outward from the city, following transportation developments.

Partial - Student Response

15. What does the diagram above show about the process and form of urban growth between 1850 and 1990 ?

As new ways of transportation
came around, population grew

15. What does the diagram above show about the process and form of urban growth between 1850 and 1990 ?

The urban growth between 1850 and 1990
has got longer each year. On the
graph in 1850 there was many electric
streetcars, street railroads. In 1900 there
wasn't many electric streetcar or railroads there was
Averial streets. Then in 1990 many
freeway. Technology has changed
a lot from 1850 and 1990.

Scorer Comments:

The first response indicates that the population grew because of transportation, but it does indicate how it expanded outward. The second response explains the expansion of transportation development, but it does not include population growth expanding as well.

Unacceptable - Student Response

15. What does the diagram above show about the process and form of urban growth between 1850 and 1990 ?

Urban growth grows up around
the original Core of the city in 1850
and it continues to be the
focus of the city.

15. What does the diagram above show about the process and form of urban growth between 1850 and 1990 ?

It expanded outward

Scorer Comments:

The first response does not indicate the relationship between urban growth and developments in transportation indicated in the diagram. The second response does not explain "what" expanded outward (transportation development and population) and therefore is insufficient for credit.