

Viking Quest: Government Assignments

May 2015

Week: 18th -22nd

- *Read and complete chapter 24 section (3) assessments pages 677-682, Government textbook*
- *Complete Chapter 24 Assessment and Activities pages 684-685, Government textbook*

STUDY GUIDE Chapter 24, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 677–682.

CHALLENGES OF URBAN GROWTH

KEY TERMS

urban renewal Programs under which cities apply for federal aid to clear slum areas and rebuild (page 678)

infrastructure The basic facilities of a city, such as paved streets and sidewalks, water pipes, sewers, bridges, and public buildings (page 680)

revitalization Investments in new facilities in an effort to promote economic growth (page 681)

gentrification The phenomenon of new people moving into old neighborhoods, forcing out those who live there and changing the essential character of the neighborhood (page 681)

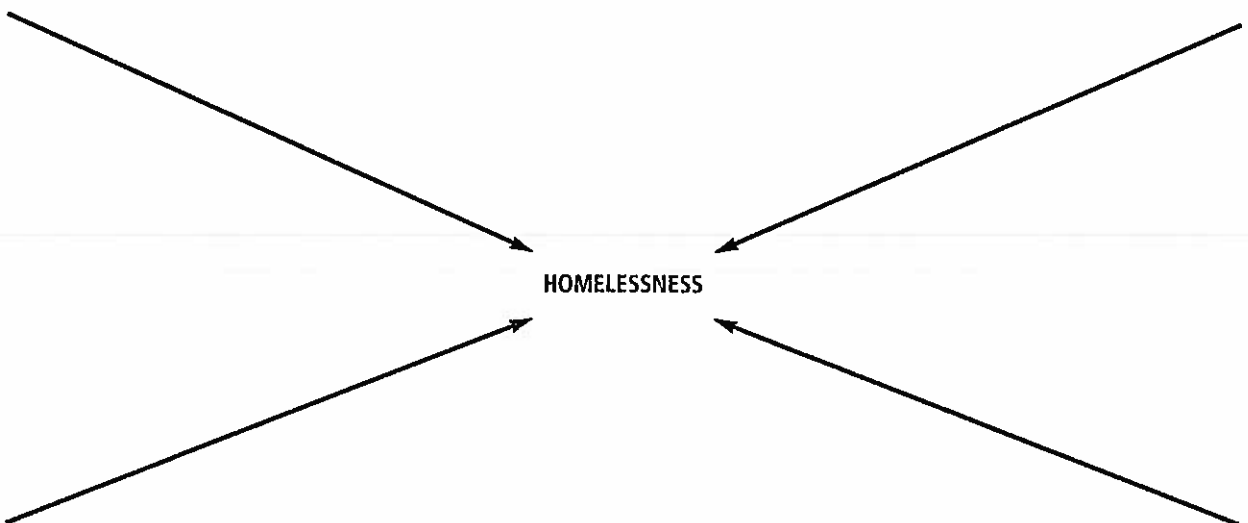
metropolitan government A type of government that serves several different communities in the same region (page 682)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Does your community have people living on the streets? Homelessness is one challenge urban areas face. This section focuses on challenges of urban growth.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the graphic organizer below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the factors that contribute to homelessness in urban areas.



STUDY GUIDE (continued)**Chapter 24, Section 3****READ TO LEARN****Introduction** (page 677)

Today many urban areas, suburbs, and small towns face housing shortages, inadequate transportation, pollution, poverty, and crime.

Population and Housing (page 677)

In recent years, cities in the Northeast and Midwest lost population, as those in the South and West grew rapidly. The populations of small towns and rural areas increased, and many people moved from cities to nearby suburbs.

Available land becomes scarce, and thus more costly, as the population in an area grows. Local government often has to decide whether available land should be used for new housing, industry, stores, or office buildings. Municipal governments try to manage land use to provide for orderly growth.

In the 1950s and 1960s, cities tried to address their housing problems by spending money from the federal government for *urban renewal*. Even after years of massive spending, fewer new housing units were built than were needed. Urban renewal added new low-rent public housing but slowed the production of other types of housing. Fewer total housing units meant higher rent costs overall.

In urban areas, minorities felt the effects of housing discrimination. Many smaller communities and suburbs excluded African Americans or the poor, elderly, and people with children. Then in 1968 Congress passed the Fair Housing Act, which bars discrimination in the sale and rental of housing.

Many cities responded to the shortage in housing by renovating, or redoing, older houses. These projects rewired houses, installed new plumbing, and rebuilt roofs, floors, and walls. Funds from local, state, and national governments contributed to renovation programs. The federal government also offered low-interest loans to build housing projects for low-income residents.

1. Why did urban renewal fail to solve the housing shortage?

Social Problems (page 679)

Unemployment and the housing shortage contribute to the problem of homelessness. Hundreds of thousands of people across America spend their nights in shelters or on the streets. In addition, two-thirds of the homeless have a serious personal problem such as alcoholism, drug addiction, a criminal record, or mental illness. Private and religious charities contribute the most to relieve homelessness. The federal government supplies just a small part of the help.

Drug abuse and addiction are closely linked to homelessness in many cities. During the 1980s inner-city teenagers, unable to find low-skill jobs, thought selling crack and other drugs was the gateway to riches. Actually, many crack dealers earned no more than the minimum wage. In 1988 the federal government increased spending for drug treatment and law enforcement. By 1990 use of crack was down by 50 percent from 1985. By 2000 the use of other drugs such as marijuana was also down but the use of methamphetamine was beginning to be viewed as a serious problem.

STUDY GUIDE (continued) Chapter 24, Section 3

2. How did the federal government deal with drug abuse and addiction in the 1980s?

Meeting Future Challenges (page 680)

One challenge that cities face is repairing or replacing their **infrastructure**. This is the paved streets and sidewalks, pipes that bring water to homes, sewers that dispose of liquid wastes, bridges, tunnels, and public buildings. Rebuilding the infrastructure will mean huge expenditures for cities well into the future. Fortunately, state and federal aid is available for road building, water and sewage systems, bridge construction, and many other public works.

Traffic and air pollution result from millions of Americans using their automobiles to commute to work. Many local leaders believe that more people would use mass transit if it were cleaner, faster, and more efficient. However, high costs discourage planners in many cities from building new mass transit systems.

Revitalization occurs when local governments make investments in new facilities in an effort to promote economic growth. A number of major cities have revitalized their downtowns. For example, Detroit invested \$200 million in a regional shopping mall and two giant office buildings on its riverfront. A second way to develop a community's economy is by giving tax incentives to industries that relocate there. Local governments often try to attract new businesses by offering lower property tax rates. Some states offer tax reductions to businesses that relocate in areas of high unemployment. The federal government also offers tax reductions, or credits, to businesses that move into areas of poverty and unemployment.

Gentrification occurs when new people move into an old neighborhood, forcing out those who live there and changing the area's essential character. In the 1980s many middle-income suburbanites and new immigrants moved into the cities. They often chose areas where they could restore old buildings and take advantage of lower housing costs while enjoying the benefits of the city. Gentrification restores life to the city by reclaiming rundown property and bringing in new businesses. However, it also increases property taxes, and property often becomes too expensive for poorer residents.

The state and federal governments cut back their urban development aid in the 1980s. They argued that the move to suburbs might be a good thing. After the census of 1990, new district lines gave suburbs additional seats in Congress and state legislatures. The nation's focus shifted from city problems to suburban opportunities.

One way to address urban problems is by reorganizing a larger region under a **metropolitan government**. Supporters of metropolitan government feel that one government for an entire metropolitan area would be better equipped to handle regional problems such as pollution and paying for services everyone uses. They also feel metropolitan government would reduce waste and duplication of services. For example, water supply and transportation might be provided more economically on an area-wide basis.

3. Why might metropolitan government be a better idea than gentrification for reviving city life?
