Name _____ Date _____

SECTION 4 • *For use with textbook pages 305–310*

City Life and Problems

Key Terms

merchandising The buying and selling of goods *(page 309)*

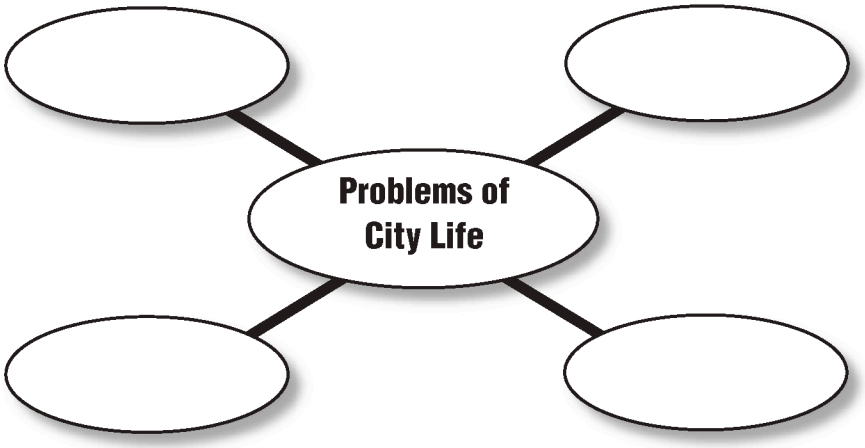
Drawing From Experience

Do you live in a large city? What parts of cities make them attractive places in which to live? What parts make them attractive places to visit?

In the last section, you read about immigration to the United States in the late 1800s. This section focuses on the growth of cities in the late 1800s.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the web organizer below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the problems that people living in cities faced?



Read to Learn

Urbanization *(page 305)*

Industrialization spurred the rapid growth of cities. American cities grew twice as fast as the nation's total population. Industrial cities started near coal and iron deposits, sources of water, shipping centers, and railroad centers. Once cities were established, they attracted facilities such as banks, warehouses, and insurance companies. This brought more industries and workers. Immigrants, as well as people from rural areas, came to cities for the jobs there.

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Study Guide • Chapter 9, Section 4 *(continued)*

1. What led to the rapid growth of cities in the United States?

Problems of City Life *(page 306)*

The rapid growth of cities led to problems. Often there was not enough housing. Many people lived in tenements, poorly constructed and cramped five- or six-story buildings which housed many families. The tenements had few windows and were often dark and airless. As the buildings began to deteriorate, city slums developed. Tenements often had poor sanitation, causing diseases such as typhoid to spread rapidly. Crime also increased in these areas.

Cities had a shortage of police officers and firefighters. Water was often impure and garbage collection infrequent. There was no city planning, so there were no parks, playgrounds, or open spaces. Rivers and harbors were polluted by sewage and factory wastes, and the air was polluted from chimney smoke.

Because wells and streams alone were inadequate, cities had to find new ways of supplying water, such as building aqueducts. Cities also had to find more efficient forms of transportation. This was accomplished by the use of elevated railways, trolley cars, and subways. Because there was not enough available space in many cities, some cities began building skyscrapers. This led to the development of the elevator.

Jacob Riis, a New York newspaper reporter, observed that slums affected people in a negative way. He focused attention on the condition by writing a best-selling book. By appealing to the public, Riis was able to get laws passed that improved the lives of city dwellers.

Jane Addams founded the most famous settlement house in the United States. She started Hull House in a Chicago slum. Addams wanted to help those living in the city slums. Her settlement house offered a wide variety of activities, as well as hot lunches and English classes for factory workers. She was especially interested in helping children. Other settlement houses were started in various other cities. They provided services for the neighborhood people. They also taught people social responsibility. Many of these people then worked to promote reform, either by running for office or by working to pass reform laws.

2. Why did Jane Addams start Hull House?

Beautifying the City *(page 309)*

Another negative side to the industrial cities was that they were ugly and had no places for rest and recreation. Architects and landscapers worked to change that situation.

Frederick L. Olmsted designed Central Park in New York. He designed the grounds where Chicago hosted the World's Fair. Other American architects adapted European styles of architecture to design modern American buildings. Louis Sullivan was one of the first architects to design skyscrapers. He believed that architects should create designs that reflect the purpose of a building. A good example of this idea was the Brooklyn Bridge.

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Study Guide • Chapter 9, Section 4 *(continued)*

American cities provided opportunities for education that were never available before. In 1876 the American Library Association was founded to provide public libraries. They were funded by taxes and private donations.

The growth of cities led to new ways of **merchandising,** or the buying and selling of goods. One way was the department store, retail centers where nearly all kinds of goods were available in one place. These stores became popular with all classes of people, and as a result, downtown areas of cities became centers for shopping. Store owners made sure that these areas were clean and attractive. The increasing use of electricity allowed stores and factories to remain open after dark, which led to a city nightlife.

City governments in the late 1800s started to provide increased services to their citizens. They took steps to reduce crime, provide recreational opportunities, and improve living conditions. They built parks and provided electricity, clean water, and sewage services. The telephone improved communication enormously, linking urban and rural areas. Despite changes for the better in many urban areas, reformers urged the government to deal with the causes of social and economic problems in the cities.

3. What new way of buying goods was available in cities in the late 1800s?

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