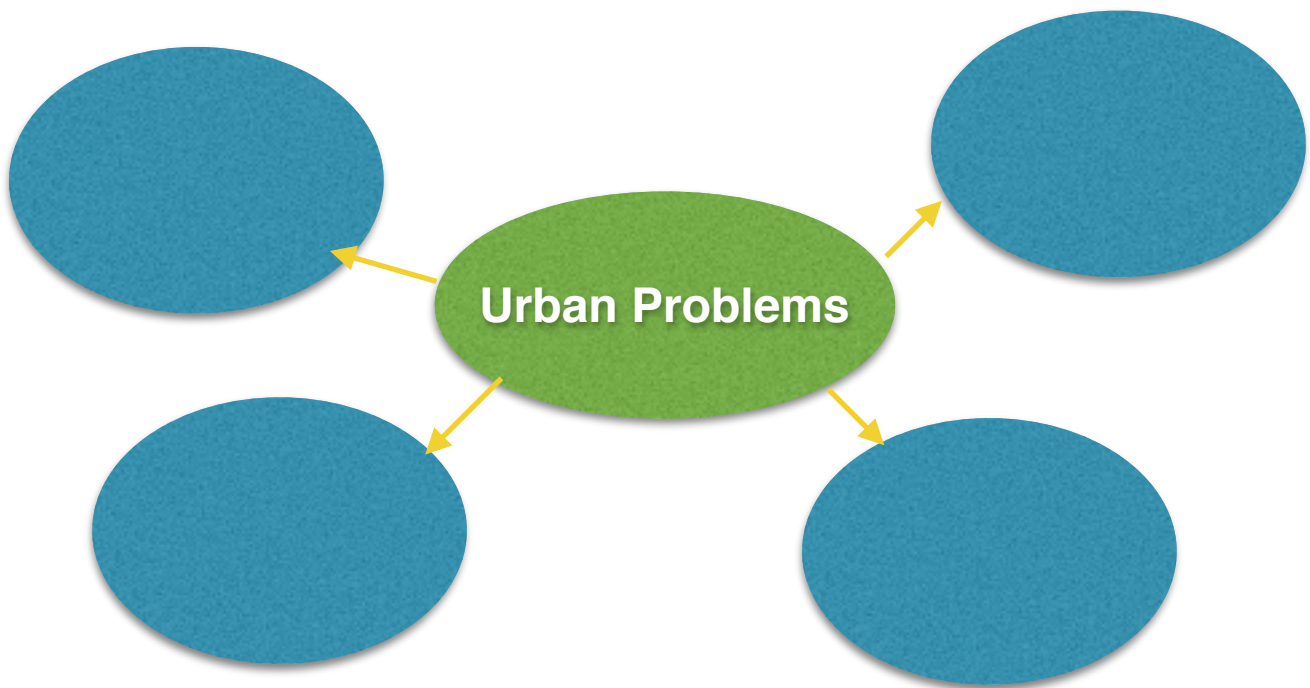


# Urbanization

## Big Idea

As you read through these passages, complete the graphic organizer by filling in some of the problems the nation's cities faced.



## Americans Migrate to the Cities

### Determining Cause and Effect

#### Explain the cause.

Cause: Cities offered:

Effect: Many people migrated to the cities.

The urban population of the United States had increased greatly by 1900. Most immigrants had neither the money to buy farms nor the education to get high paying jobs. They settled in the nation's growing cities and worked in factories. American farmers also moved to cities, looking for better paying jobs. Cities offered other benefits, such as running water and modern plumbing. They also had libraries, museums, and theaters.

As city populations grew, the land prices increased. Land was limited, so builders began to build up instead of out. Tall, steel frame buildings called **skyscrapers** began to appear. Chicago's Home Insurance Building, built in 1885, was the first of many such buildings.

To move people around cities, different kinds of transportation developed. At first, railroad cars pulled by horses were common. San Francisco and other cities began using cars pulled by underground cables. Other cities began using electric trolley cars. When congestion on streets became a problem, cities built elevated railroads or subway systems.

# Separation by Class

## Comparing and Contrasting

As you read, complete the sentences.

1. Many middle class families lived in:
2. Many working class families lived in:

Wealthy, middle class, and working class people lived in different parts of the cities. The wealthy lived in fashionable districts in cities' hearts. They built large, beautiful houses modeled after stylish European homes. For example, merchant Potter Palmer chose to model his Chicago home after a castle. In New York, Cornelius Vanderbilt's grandson's home included a two-story dining room, a gymnasium, and a solid marble bathroom.

The growing middle class included doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, and social workers. Many moved away from the central city to its suburbs. New commuter rail lines helped them travel back and forth to their jobs.

The working class generally lived in **tenements**. These were dark and crowded multifamily apartments. Many working families sent their children to work in factories or took in boarders to supplement their incomes.

# Urban Problems

## Analyzing Information

Why did some city dwellers support political machines?

People living in overcrowded city neighborhoods faced several problems, including crime, violence, fire, disease, and pollution. Both major and minor crimes increased as city populations grew.

Disease and pollution were even bigger threats. Improper disposal of sewage contaminated drinking water. This caused epidemics of diseases such as typhoid and cholera. Sources of pollution included horse manure on streets, chimney smoke, and soot and ash from coal or wood fires.

A new kind of political system took hold in cities. The **political machine** was an informal political group designed to gain and keep power. **Party bosses** provided people living in cities with jobs, food, housing, heat, and police protection. In exchange, they asked for votes. George Plunkett was one powerful New York City party boss. Party bosses controlled the city's money. Machine politicians grew rich through fraud or **graft**—getting money by dishonest or questionable means. For example, a politician might find out where a park was being built. The politician would then buy the land and sell it to the city for a profit. Corrupt politicians often accepted bribes from contractors in exchange for city contracts.

One of the most famous political machines was Tammany Hall in New York City. William "Boss" Tweed was its corrupt leader. In some cities, the machines controlled all city services. Although corrupt, political machines provided necessary city services to the urban masses.

# Section Wrap-Up

Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.

1. What technological developments made the growth of cities possible?

2. How did party bosses of the political machines grow wealthy?