Notes: Population

Question: How does population affect economic growth?

Census: How we measure the population

1. First census = 1790
   1. Four million people
2. 2010 Census = 312 million people

American Migrations

1. Westward Expansion (1840s—1920s)
   1. California Gold Rush (1849)
   2. Oregon Trail (1846—1869)
   3. Homestead Act—Great Plains (1862)
   4. Boomtowns and Ghost towns
2. Suburbanization (1950s—2000s)
   1. Levittown (1946)
   2. Suburbs grow dramatically outside of core cities.
3. Sunbelt (1950—1990)
   1. Americans move to the South and West in search of better jobs and weather. Northeast and “Rust Belt” decline.
4. “Great Migrations” African Americans (1910-1960) and (1970—Today)

Results of population growth (Negative)

1. Traffic Congestion
2. Overcrowding
3. Housing shortages
4. Higher crime
5. Environmental depletion

Positive Results of Population Growth

1. More economic opportunities
2. Increased tax base