

IR-11: Functions of Cities Brainstorming

	Handmade Goods	Machine- or Factory-Made Goods
Benefits		
Challenges		

IR-12: Functions of Cities Note-Taking Guide—Reading to Learn

Use IR-12 to complete the note-taking guide below.

First function of cities: _____

Cottage industry: _____

Commercial industry: _____

Public sector jobs: _____

Private sector jobs: _____

Second function of cities: _____

Services provided in cities: _____

“PIGS” stands for:

P _____

I _____

G _____

S _____

Use IR-6 to locate and label the cities listed on the “Important Cities of the World” table in IR-13 that are not labeled already on your map.

Functions of Cities

You have read about how urban areas can grow from villages into towns and sometimes from cities into megacities. But what is the attraction for people who move from rural areas to urban areas? What is the function of cities? Cities have functions that may be based on location, industry, the needs of its population, or other factors. Some cities have very specific functions, such as university centers, administrative centers, economic centers, or entertainment centers.



Increased production, better efficiency, and lower prices are some of the potential benefits of a factory system. What might be some negative factors of having a factory in a city?

The first function of a city is to provide jobs. Before industrialization, most people worked in a system known as a cottage industry. A **cottage industry** meant that people worked out of their homes to create homemade, small-scale goods. There were no complex machines, so goods and services were not mass-produced. Work was slow and manual, but many products were very distinctive because they were made one at a time and could vary slightly in pattern, size, or amount.

Industrialization caused economies to change from a cottage industry to a commercial industry, which in turn caused

cities to grow rapidly. **Commercial industry** is the efficient and systematic approach to mass-produce goods and services, including the use of machinery. It was inefficient to have individuals work on a product in their homes and then share their goods in a central meeting place in the community. Instead, it was more efficient to have a workplace, usually a factory, centrally located in a city. Cities became gathering places for people to work in factories. Ancillary businesses, those that support primary businesses, started to increase as well. Restaurants, bookstores, department stores, and personal services (e.g., hair stylists, doctors, tax accountants, and lawyers) started to locate near factories. Factory employees could visit the ancillary business before or after their shift or possibly during the lunch or dinner hour.

In more contemporary times, there are an abundance and variety of jobs offered within a city. Public sector jobs are created and funded with taxpayer dollars, whereas private sector jobs are created and funded by individual companies. Because cities are natural gathering points, there are more jobs available in cities than there are in rural areas. This is one reason that there are more people throughout the world living in urban areas than in rural areas.

Urban Jobs Divided by Source

Public Sector	Private Sector
Mayor	Banker
Trash Collector	Airline Pilot
Police Officer	Car Salesperson
Public School Teacher	Private School Teacher
Public Librarian	Grocery or Retail Employee
Firefighter	Computer Programmer
Judge	Cook
City Bus Driver	Journalist

The second function of a city is to provide services. Just as you understand that it is more efficient to utilize commercial industry as opposed to a cottage industry, it also is more efficient to have vital services provided in a central location of the city. Think about the location of the main police station, jail, city council chamber, and school administration offices. They may not be exactly in the middle of a city's downtown area, but in major metropolitan areas, these offices usually are centrally located in an area where residents will have the greatest access. On a larger scale, the main county courthouse and hospital; state offices to



The New Hanover County Courthouse in Wilmington, North Carolina, serves 202,667 residents as of the 2010 census. In this courthouse, which houses a district court and a superior court, civil matters such as small claims and family issues are resolved, as are traffic violations and criminal cases.



The Sydney Opera House, in Sydney, Australia, hosts concerts and theater productions. It even contains a recording studio. Tourists travel from around the world to visit this architectural marvel.

distribute public assistance; and regional offices for federal entities, such as Social Security, also are located in major urban centers.

It also makes sense to locate major centers of entertainment in places where patrons will have the greatest access. There are two main things needed to support a large-scale entertainment industry: accessibility and affordability. Venues need to be

IR-13: Functions of Cities

located where people have access to them, and there must be a population base that is willing to afford the cost of supporting that form of entertainment. Typically, the symphony, the ballet, and major sports teams are expensive endeavors. Their ability to survive as business organizations is dependent on people who are willing to support those activities financially.

Different cities provide different types of jobs or services. One way to look at the spatial distribution of global cities is to categorize the different activities that the cities support. An acronym that represents these activities is "PIGS."

Services Provided by Cities

P	Port Cities
I	Industrial Cities
G	Government Cities
S	Special Service Cities

This acronym provides a general economic explanation for why cities exist. Not every city will fall into one of these categories. Some cities, such as Detroit or Los Angeles, may fall into more than one of these categories. Study the table and consider the spatial relationship between the cities within each category. How close are two different ports? What might a problem be if port cities overlapped their service areas? How close can two cities that specialize in entertainment services be?

Important Cities of the World

			
Port Cities	Industrial Cities	Government Cities	Special Service Cities
Durban Hong Kong Houston Mumbai New York Shanghai Singapore	Bangkok Detroit Liverpool Monterrey Port Elizabeth São Paulo Yokohama	Abuja Ankara Beijing Brasilia Islamabad Naypyidaw New Delhi Ottawa Washington, DC	Dubai Hollywood Jerusalem Las Vegas Milan Monaco Varanasi



IR-14: Functions of Cities Assessment Items

1. One major pull factor that encourages people to move to cities is available jobs —
 - A. in factories
 - B. on farms
 - C. in the military
 - D. on construction sites

2. Which of the following is the best generalization regarding cities?
 - A. Cottage industries are more likely located in cities.
 - B. All cities locate vital services in a central location within the city.
 - C. Services in cities are less effective than those in rural areas.
 - D. Mass production is possible in cities with an adequate work force.

Use the information in the box below and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following question.

São Paulo

- Located on the coast of Brazil
- Seventh largest metropolitan area
- Paulista Avenue, important financial center
- Headquarters for 63% of international companies in Brazil
- Producer of telecommunications, automobiles, and pharmaceuticals

3. It can be inferred that the city described above is an example of a —
 - A. port city
 - B. industrial city
 - C. government city
 - D. special service city