

## IR-23: Megalopolis Visuals

Study the pictures below. Identify what you see in the pictures and list your observations in your geographer's journal.

**A**



**B**



**C**



**D**



## IR-24: Megalopolis Card Sort

| <b>New York City, NY</b>                                     | <b>Boston, MA</b>  | <b>Washington, DC</b>  | <b>Philadelphia, PA</b>   |
|--|--|--|---|
| Most important city of US                                    | Port of entry for immigrants during colonial period  | Nation's capital   | Influenced by Swedes, Dutch, and British  |
| Strong economic influence and location of US stock market    | Highest per-capita density of institutions of higher learning  | Artificial city  | Formerly second largest city in the British Empire  |
| Accounts in 2009 for large percentage of US trade with world | Large number of high-tech jobs   | US Congress has direct legislative authority in local city matters | Capital of US from 1790 to 1800   |
| Largest modern port of entry for immigrants                  | Extremely limited hinterland, surrounded by physical features such as the Atlantic Ocean and the Green and White Mountains | Land area for this city was donated by both Maryland and Virginia  | Extremely limited hinterland, surrounded by physical features such as the Atlantic Ocean and the Pocono Mountains |
| Strongest infrastructure in US                               | Large number of educational opportunities  | Largest employers are federal government and tourist industry      | Change from manufacturing jobs to diversified work force  |
| Location of three international airports                     | Change from manufacturing jobs to diversified work force   |  |   |

**IR-25: Megalopolis Graphic Organizer—Reading to Learn**

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**Boston**

Physical Features:

Historical Heritage:

Economic Attributes:

Political Characteristics:

**Philadelphia**

Physical Features:

Historical Heritage:

Economic Attributes:

Political Characteristics:

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Physical Features:

Historical Heritage:

Economic Attributes:

Political Characteristics:

Physical Features:

Historical Heritage:

Economic Attributes:

Political Characteristics:

**Washington, DC**

**New York City**

## **Megalopolis**

The urban phenomenon known as megalopolis was created by Jean Gottman in a book by the same title published in 1961. The **megalopolis** is an urban corridor in the northeastern region of the United States. The area is nearly 600 miles long and extends roughly from Boston, Massachusetts, through Washington, DC. Boston was one of the original European colonies in North America. Tourists continue to be attracted to the rich cultural and historic events that helped influence the growth and development of Boston from colonial times, through the American Revolution, the Civil War and industrialization, and the advent of globalization in the 20th century.

The city was founded near the Merrimack River. The Port of Boston was an integral part of the early economic development of not only Boston, but the early colonies as well. It also was a port of entry for many immigrants into the United States. A unique attraction of Boston has always been its emphasis on education. As new immigrants came to the United States, there was a desire to advance one's education and increase economic and social opportunities. Today the greater Boston area has the highest per-capita density of institutions of higher learning in the world.



*The city of Boston was settled on Boston Harbor, just south of the Merrimack River, making it an ideal place for migration and trade.*

### **Institutions of Higher Learning in the Greater Boston Area**

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Boston College                              | Radcliffe College                    |
| Boston University                           | Tufts University                     |
| Harvard University                          | Wellesley College                    |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) | University of Massachusetts, Amherst |

When you combine the people immigrating to the United States through the Port of Boston with the many colleges and universities that are located in that region, there is not only an abundance of available manual labor, but also an opportunity to receive a higher education that is needed for upper-management positions. This is a key ingredient to the success of the combined statistical area (CSA) of Boston.

As the economy of the United States has grown and developed, Boston lost many of its long-established manufacturing jobs. In order to maintain its economic status as one of the most prosperous cities in which to live, the city had to diversify its work force and find other economic sectors to develop. The greater Boston area capitalized on the density of institutions of higher learning by developing an industry

## IR-26: Megalopolis

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based on advanced technology. Next to Silicon Valley, California, and Austin, Texas, Boston has the largest number of high-tech jobs.

The one aspect that limited Boston's opportunity to evolve into the most dominant city in the United States was, and still is, that there is no hinterland available. If residents tried to move east or south, they would run into the Atlantic Ocean. The White Mountains limited movement northward, and the Green Mountains halted movement westward. Boston had an ideal site, but its situation was limited or nonexistent.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has played a critical role in the life of the United States, especially in the several decades surrounding the American Revolution and its aftermath. Founded on the Delaware River, Philadelphia was influenced by the Swedes, the Dutch, and later the British. At one point, Philadelphia was the second most populous city in the British Empire, and for many years, it was the largest city in the original 13 colonies. Philadelphia was the capital of the young United States of America from 1790 to 1800, until Washington, DC, was built.



*Independence Hall in Philadelphia is an iconic cultural landmark and one of many historically significant buildings throughout the US megalopolis. Can you name other significant historical or cultural landmarks in the megalopolis?*

Philadelphia shares many urban and economic characteristics with Boston:

- a good port from which residents maintained a trading relationship with Europe all the way through the American Revolution;
- an original colony settlement that continues to attract tourists to cultural and historic sites;
- a post-industrial economy that has shifted from manufacturing to producing vast amounts of medical supplies; and
- an extremely limited hinterland—the Atlantic Ocean to the east and south, New York City to the north, and the Pocono Mountains to the west.



*The tourism industry is the second largest employer, after the federal government, in Washington, DC. In recent years, more than 15 million tourists have visited annually.*

Washington, DC, is an **artificial city**. Unlike other colonial cities, Washington, DC, was not created by early European settlers to maximize a coastal location or to connect the people with their ancestors in Europe. The sole purpose of the city was to become the national capital of the United States. The Constitution (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17) gave Congress authority "To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding 10 miles square) as may, by Cession of Particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States . . ." In 1791, President George Washington decided to designate

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land to be given up by Maryland and Virginia along the Potomac River so that the national capital would not be in any state, thereby possibly giving the impression that the state was more important than any other state. President John Adams was the first president to live in the White House, beginning in 1800. As the seat of the national government, Washington, DC, welcomes visitors and tourists all year. The federal government and the tourist industry are the two largest employers found in Washington, DC.



*In 2010, about 717,000 college-educated people between the ages of 18 and 44 lived within a 30-minute commute of the central business district in Lower Manhattan, according to the Lower Manhattan Downtown Alliance.*

New York City is the most dominant city of the United States. Its site and situation are the most unique compared with the other colonial settlements, and it continues to be the focal point of the economic and social aspects of American life. As part of one of the original European colonies, New York City is a favorite destination for tourists who are attracted to its cultural and historic sites. Some might even argue that because of the influence of the economic policies of major corporations and the volatility of the stock market, New York City influences the political decisions that are made in the nation's capital, Washington, DC.

New York City is located at the confluence of the mouths of the Hudson River and East River. Long Island, which was formed from glacially deposited materials 10,000 years ago, protects this area and creates the second-best natural port facility in the world. (Singapore's physical characteristics make it the best natural port in the world.) The Port of New York and New Jersey accounted for 13% of all US trade with the rest of the world in 2009.

In addition to trade, the Port of New York and New Jersey processes more immigrants annually into the United States than any other port. The flow of immigrants through the Port of New York and New Jersey provides a consistently large pool of resources for manual labor. In 2009, 70 of the Fortune 1000 companies were headquartered in New York City. In lower Manhattan alone, there are more than 35,000 service sector jobs that have an average annual salary in excess of \$115,000. The combination of a large immigrant pool of labor and the vast number of service sector jobs that require an advanced education make New York City a desirable place to locate businesses. Other characteristics that help support New York City's most dominant city status include the following:

- More than 900 fashion companies have headquarters in New York City, which is twice as many as in Paris, France.
- The Garment District, just over 1 square mile in total area, once boasted more than 100,000 employees who made the majority of clothing sold in the United States during the 20th century; it is rapidly declining due to higher property costs as well as increased foreign competition due to the globalization of the work force.

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- The city is a global financial capital that includes four major stock (e.g., shares in companies), commodities (e.g., oil, gold, and agricultural products), and futures (e.g., buying commodities or currencies at a predetermined price) exchanges; more than 200 banks from 40 different countries; and 50% of the world's equity trading (buying and selling stocks), which flows through the city every day.
- Half the revenue from magazines, books, and broadcast television stations originates in New York City; roughly one-sixth of all the publishing in the world is done in New York City.
- New York City is the largest tourism destination in the United States, with about 47,000 tourists annually.
- The infrastructure of New York City is unrivaled in the United States and possibly the world. There are three international airports (La Guardia, JFK, and Newark) that service the greater New York City area because one airport cannot handle the volume of travelers. Combined, these three airports carried more than 107 million passengers in 2008, making it the equivalent of the largest airport in the world. (The second busiest airport in the world was in Atlanta, with more than 90 million passengers in 2008.) An elaborate system of railroads and highways connects the Port of New York and New Jersey and all three airports to consumers in New York City and beyond. This makes New York City an excellent break-of-bulk point. A **break-of-bulk** point exists where cargo is transferred from one mode of transportation to another. New York City's extensive transportation infrastructure allows for a wide range of economic activities.



*New York City has a fully integrated mass transit system of taxicabs, buses, and an extensive subway system, which helps transport the more than 8 million residents of New York City proper.*

## IR-27: Megalopolis Assessment Items

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1. A dominant city is one that —
  - A. has the largest population in the country
  - B. was the first one established in a region
  - C. produces the most economically in a region
  - D. has the greatest influence in a region and globally
  
2. Boston and Philadelphia share which of the following characteristics?
  - A. Landlocked with no waterway for transportation of goods
  - B. Economy shifted from colonial manufacturing to modern specialization
  - C. Modern cities that developed after the colonial period
  - D. Surrounded on all sides by extensive hinterland

**Use the photo below and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following question.**



3. The harbor illustrated above —
  - A. is one of the world's best ports
  - B. has many places for economic expansion
  - C. is in the beginning stages of development
  - D. provides few opportunities for trading businesses