



WHERE SHOULD I LIVE? USING U.S. CENSUS BUREAU DATA TO MAKE DECISIONS

Activity Item

This activity uses the following online tool:

- QuickFacts
www.census.gov/quickfacts

Student Learning Objectives

- I will be able to explore data access tools to gather information.
- I will be able to use data to draw conclusions and make decisions.
- I will be able to understand how to compare and contrast data sets.

Part 1 - Examine Data for Three Cities

If someday you had the choice to live wherever you wanted, where would choose? Would you want to live in the city or in the country? Would you prefer to live near the beach or the mountains? Do you think you would like to walk, bike, or drive to work?

In this activity, you will examine data in QuickFacts for three different cities — the first from a slip of paper from your teacher and the other two from your own choosing — to determine where you might like to live when you are older.

1. Write your first city and state from your slip of paper here:

2. Next, think about a different city that you have never visited but are interested in learning more about. Write that city and state here:

3. Now think of another city that you have visited and that you would like to explore further. Write that city and state here:

4. Retrieve the most recent data available in QuickFacts to learn more about your three cities to answer the questions below. (If you see an "X" or another letter in a category, try to draw a conclusion for why those data may not be available.):
 - Rank the cities from largest to smallest, according to the population estimates (not base).

1.

2.

3.

- Which city has the largest percentage of people aged 5 and up who speak a language other than English at home?
- In which city does it take longest, on average, for people aged 16 and up to get to work?
- Which city has the greatest percentage of foreign-born people?
- Which city has the largest percentage of people aged 25 and up with a bachelor's degree or higher?
- Which city has the highest median household income?
- Which city has the greatest percentage of people younger than 18?
- Which city has the greatest percentage of people aged 65 and older?
- Which city has the most women-owned firms?

5. Analyze these and other data from QuickFacts to answer the following questions about your three cities:
- Which city do you think has the greatest need for support services for low-income families? How do you know?
 - Which city appears to be the least racially diverse? How do you know?
 - Which city appears to have the most educated residents? Are its residents more educated than people in the United States as a whole? How do you know?
 - What other conclusions can you make about these three cities?

Part 2 – Pick Your Favorite City

Based on what you have learned so far about your three cities, select the two where you would be most interested in living. Write the two cities where indicated in the middle two column headers of the table below. Next, pick five categories (e.g., population) and their subcategories (e.g., population estimates) from QuickFacts that you think are the most important criteria to consider when choosing a place to live and write them in the spaces provided in the first column.

Fill in the rest of the table with the QuickFacts data. In the right column, write which city you think is the “winner” for each criterion and briefly explain why.

Criteria	City:	City:	Winner
Category: Subcategory:			

Write a paragraph that explains which city (of your two favorites above) you would choose to move to as an adult. Consider not only why you like the city but also why it is a better option for you than the other city you examined: