

### To the Teacher

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#### Major Theme

Building the suburbs, decentralizing cities

#### Subtheme

Cities versus suburbs

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#### Preparation

Make 4 copies of the image cards and the oral histories (cut apart), the Clues sheet, and the Mapping the Big Idea sheet.

#### Activity One: Image Cards

Grade Level: All

##### 1. Match the Memories

Divide the class into 4 groups. Give each group a photocopy of the 6 image and oral history cards. Direct students to match the image with the oral history card. (20 minutes)

##### 2. Using Secondary Sources

Pass out the Clues sheet to each group. Ask students to read the additional information about their images to each other (perhaps in a round-robin format), then adjust their group hypotheses. Each group should share their conclusions with the class. (15 minutes)

#### Activity Two: Mapping the Big Idea

Grade Level: Elementary and Middle School

Each group should review the map and synthesize the information by answering the questions. (20 minutes)

#### Activity Three: Taking a Deeper Look

##### Push and Pull of Cities and Suburbs

Grade Level: Middle and High School

Primary-source documents: telegram, protest poster

1. Review the documents and divide students into small groups to discuss the statements. Direct them to decide if they agree or disagree with each statement. Hang up 4 signs: "strongly agree," "agree," "disagree," "strongly disagree." Read each statement and ask students to stand near signs for their opinions. Let each group discuss, then a group's spokesperson should share with the class. Read the next statement and repeat.
2. Have students choose one statement and write a letter (dated in the 1950s or 1960s) to an elected official expressing their feelings on demolition and construction during that time period.

#### Activity Four: What about Your Neighborhood?

Grade Level: Elementary and Middle School

Students research the region they live in and learn more about the cities and suburbs in their immediate communities.

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*National History Standards: ERA 9 1945–Early 1970s Postwar United States*

*1A/B growth of the middle class, impact of the GI Bill, movement out of the cities, segregation of communities, impact of expressway-building on cities*