

What event in Charlotte's history had the most influence on its growth?



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0..>

Supporting Questions

1. What were the historical events that led to increases in Charlotte's population over time?
2. How did economics play a role in the population booms in Charlotte's history?
3. In what ways has Charlotte changed because of events that led to population increases?

What event in Charlotte's history had the most influence on its growth?	
Inquiry Standard	3.H.1 Understand how events, individuals and ideas have influenced the history of local and regional communities. 3.H.1.2 Analyze the impact of contributions made by diverse historical figures in local communities and regions over time 3.G.1.4 Explain how the movement of goods, people and ideas impact the community
Staging the Compelling Question	Students will analyze two maps, on which the average population and traffic patterns are provided for Mecklenburg County in 1999 and 2016.

Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3
What were the historical events that led to increases in Charlotte's population over time?	How did economics play a role in the population booms in Charlotte's history?	In what ways has Charlotte changed because of events that led to population increases?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Read the primary sources provided and create a timeline of the historical events that transformed Charlotte from a tiny town into a city.	Explain how economic factors contributed to the population increases in Charlotte's history.	Create cause and effect charts that demonstrate how a population increase changed the city of Charlotte, NC.
Featured Sources	Featured Sources	Featured Sources
Source A: History of the Growth of Charlotte	Source A: Becoming a Boom Town	Source A: Charlotte Annexation Map Source B: Homes overtaking land Source C: Changes to Charlotte

Summative Performance Task	ARGUMENT Which event in Charlotte's history had the most influence on growth?
	EXTENSION Should Charlotte try and stop the growth it is experiencing or slow it down in some way?
Taking Informed Action	<p>UNDERSTAND How have historical events affected the development of other major cities? Can you find a pattern that links the development of the major cities on the east coast, for example?</p> <p>ASSESS What changes does Charlotte need to make in order to meet the demands of its growing population? Thinking about other, larger cities, what features exist there that help their huge populations of residents live, work, and co-exist "successfully?"</p> <p>ACTION Write to your local government officials informing them of your ideas to help the development of Charlotte be beneficial to its current and future residents.</p>

Inquiry Description

Why is the compelling question important?

The compelling question is important to the students in our district because many of them come from families who are transplants from other cities. They themselves can either remember moving to Charlotte or their parents came from other cities and even other countries. Also, many of our schools are in the annexed neighborhoods rather than Charlotte "proper," so it is compelling to them to figure out why their school is considered part of Charlotte even though it can be up to 30 minutes away from the city itself. I chose the formative tasks as a way to familiarize students with the events that led to the growth of the city. The first question/source talks about the history of Charlotte going back to when it was a Native American trading crossroads, all the way up to modern day. It goes deep into various events that changed the city. The second task is more open-ended, where students explain how economic factors led to more development in the city. This gives teachers a chance to provide even more content, revisit events from the previous days' work with a new lens, and present the most current reasons why Charlotte has become a "boom town." Finally, the last task has students analyzing how the political boundaries and culture of the city would grow and change as more and more people came. The sources were chosen because they provide content knowledge, lots of room to analyze, and interesting facts or images for the students to interact with. The arguments students can make after working with these sources will be varied and very compelling. This inquiry should take 3-5 days.

Structure

The formative tasks build from familiarizing themselves with the history of growth in Charlotte to how the actual city itself has been affected by such huge increases in population. First students are simply identifying what has happened in Charlotte, then digging deeper with each task to the economic factors that drove many population booms as well as how the borders and culture have changed as well during those increases. The sources contain rich content, by describing now only the events but the people and ideas that helped shape the events. Therefore, students are learning not only about how Charlotte grew, but about how the city has played a role in important political, economic, and cultural events as well. Other sources that include images and/or maps to analyze give students the freedom to "see what they want to see," meaning, they will make inferences and analyze in ways we might not expect.

Staging the Compelling Question

Compelling Question	What event in Charlotte's history had the most influence on its growth?
Featured Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Source A: Mecklenburg County Traffic Maps

Staging the compelling question

During the Compelling Question staging activity, students will analyze two maps. These two maps are from the Department of Transportation and show how the not only the population of Charlotte has increased, but how the neighborhoods surrounding Charlotte which are part of the borders of the city have been affected in terms of population as well. Students will look at the maps as the teacher facilitates. As they discuss, students will realize that populations of people have come to Charlotte for many reasons, and that figuring out what "makes a city grow" will take some questioning and investigating.

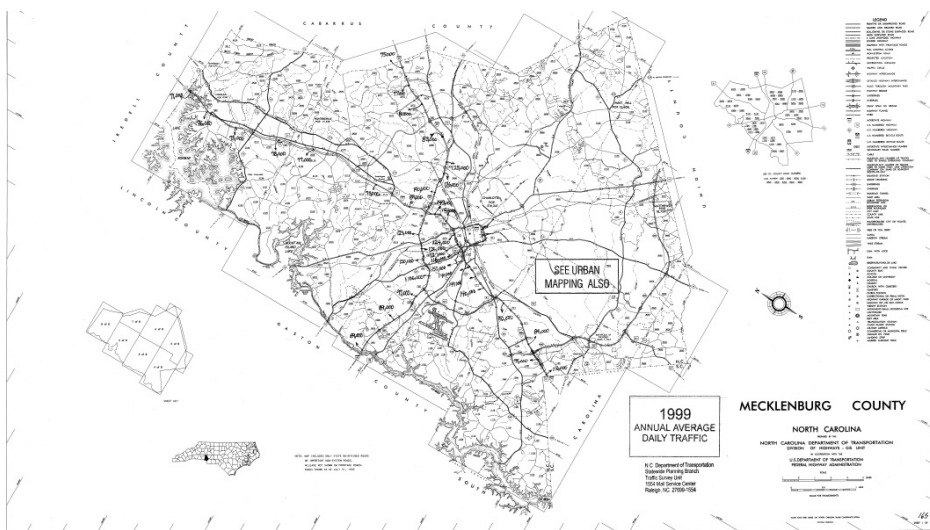
Compelling Question

Featured Source A

Mecklenburg County Traffic Maps



[https://xfer.services.ncdot.gov/imgdot/DOTTSUMaps/..](https://xfer.services.ncdot.gov/imgdot/DOTTSUMaps/)



<https://xfer.services.ncdot.gov/imgdot/DOTTSUMaps/..>

Supporting Question 1

Supporting Question	What were the historical events that led to increases in Charlotte's population over time?
Formative Performance Task	Read the primary sources provided and create a timeline of the historical events that transformed Charlotte from a tiny town into a city.
Featured Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Source A: History of the Growth of Charlotte

With this question, students will be digging into Charlotte/the area's past by reading about the historical events that took place in the area. By reading about the movement of people, creation of settlements, when the city was part of a colony, and moving forward through history, students will be able to pinpoint events that, in their minds, contributed to the growth of Charlotte from a small trading crossroads to a city. This question will then help them understand how/why/when Charlotte developed prior to the larger booms of population growth during the 1900s/early 2000s.

Formative Performance Task

Students will closely read sources that describe the movement of people, as well as historical events that have taken place in and around Charlotte NC. They will then create a timeline of their chosen important historical events that led to population increases, explaining why this event would have increased the number of people living in the area.

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source A

History of the Growth of Charlotte

Excerpt

Two events lifted Charlotte out of its minor place on the periphery of the plantation economy. They were the discovery of gold in 1799 and the coming of the railroad in 1852. These new stimuli assured that Charlotte would grow as a trading town.

In 1799 farmer John Reed found a seventeen pound gold nugget on his farm twenty-five miles east of the village of Charlotte, south of Concord in Cabarrus County.²¹ Reed used the rock as a doorstep until 1802 when a jeweler recognized it as gold, setting off the United States first gold rush. As discoveries spread to nearby counties in North and South Carolina, Charlotte became the trade center of America's first gold production region. Two of the era's richest mines were less than two miles from the Square: the Rudisill near Summit Avenue between Mint and Tryon streets, and the St. Catherine near the corner of Graham and West Morehead.

By 1835 production was so heavy that the U. S. Treasury decided to open a branch mint in Charlotte. A fine NeoClassical building was completed in 1837.²² Designed by noted Philadelphia architect William Strickland, it stood near the corner of West Trade and Mint Streets until 1933 when it was dismantled and rebuilt in the Eastover neighborhood for use as an art museum.²³ Between 1838 and 1861 the Charlotte mint coined more than \$5 million in gold pieces.²⁴ After the Civil War the building reopened as an assay office until 1913, though Charlotte had given up its lead in U. S. gold production with the legendary California gold rush of 1849. Gold production largely ceased in the 1910s, except for a brief flurry during the 1930s Depression, but investors still hold the mines, waiting for gold prices to rise enough to make production again profitable.

The Charlotte gold rush brought miners, engineers and metallurgists to the city, and is credited with the establishment of banks here. As important, it made the city the trading center not just for Mecklenburg, but for a region of several counties as miners brought their gold in to be assayed and smelted. By 1850 Charlotte had 1,065 people.²⁵

The Railroad Center, 1850s-1870s:

More than any other event, the arrival of the railroad in 1852 set Charlotte on its way to being the largest city in the Carolinas.²⁶ When the Charlotte and South Carolina completed its track up from Columbia in that year, it was one of the first railways in the western half of North Carolina. Suddenly Charlotte had the advantage over the half-dozen similar sized villages in the region.

Source:

<http://www.cmhpf.org/educargrowth.htm>

This website is an entire comprehensive history of the growth of Charlotte, which can be broken into excerpts similar to the one above for students to read and pinpoint major historical events that led to a population increase. Students can also read the text in groups and complete gallery walks/share in some way so that more events over time are being analyzed as a class to then use in their final arguments.

Supporting Question 2

Supporting Question	How did economics play a role in the population booms in Charlotte's history?
Formative Performance Task	Explain how economic factors contributed to the population increases in Charlotte's history.
Featured Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Source A: Becoming a Boom Town

In this question students will now dig deeper both into events from their timeline from the previous day and new sources to identify the ways in which economic factors contributed to the growth of Charlotte, especially in the last century and specifically in the past thirty years.

Formative Performance Task

This activity is more open-ended in that students can "Explain" in a variety of ways. They can add another layer to their timeline with explanations of how this event was an "economic" event that affected population, also adding more from the new source. Students can create drawings, diagrams, sketches to explain these events. Students can compare different economic events based on similarities and differences throughout various time periods.

Supporting Question 2

Featured Source A

Becoming a Boom Town

Excerpt

Charlotte was originally founded in 1768 on the crossroads of two Native American crossroads, on the corner of Trade and Tryon, or Independence Square.

Since then, there have been three major periods of growth, the first was during Charlotte's gold rush (1799-1849), the second was the building boom of the 1920s, and the third started in the late 80s and still continues today.

Other sectors of the Charlotte economy also started to thrive. Duke Energy, based in Charlotte, grew to become the largest electric holding company in the country. US Airways, which acquired Piedmont in 1987, made Charlotte a hub, increasing the number of flights coming in and out of the metro area. By 2007, Charlotte Douglas was the fastest growing airport in the United States, adding 13 percent more passengers from the previous year.

But banking was – and still is – the biggest game in town. Charlotte is the second largest banking center in the country, behind only New York. And as the banks grew, thousands of workers and their families flocked to the city.

Source:

<https://www.citylab.com/life/2012/09/anatomy-boomt..>

Supporting Question 3

Supporting Question	In what ways has Charlotte changed because of events that led to population increases?
Formative Performance Task	Create cause and effect charts that demonstrate how a population increase changed the city of Charlotte, NC.
Featured Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Source A: Charlotte Annexation Map● Source B: Homes overtaking land● Source C: Changes to Charlotte

In this question, students are attempting to find out how the events that led to different population "booms" have affected the city itself; political boundaries, culture, etc. In order to decide in their summative task which event had the most impact on the growth of Charlotte, they need to see how each event affected the city itself.

Formative Performance Task

Students will analyze their timelines, previous day's sources, as well as images and maps to determine how the city itself was changed by various population booms. There are many avenues that can be taken: more homes built, more suburban neighborhoods annexed into the boundaries of Charlotte, the flooding of the area up in Davidson that is now Lake Norman, the building of I485, the creation of sports teams specifically meant for Charlotte/Carolina fans to support, etc.

Supporting Question 3

Featured Source A

Charlotte Annexation Map

See attached link for PDF Smart Ink Document, that would not save in this generator. Attached link is a map showing the gradual annexation of neighborhoods into the Charlotte boundaries.

<http://ww.charmeck.org/Planning/Annexation/Annexat..>

Supporting Question 3

Featured Source B

Homes overtaking land

Excerpt

"When I was a boy I used to ride my horse out and herd cattle on our farm in what's now south Charlotte," says city council member Andy Dulin. "When I was older, I used to do it on my motorcycle."

Most of the stores and restaurants that occupy the hundreds of glistening new strip malls are high-end chains.

Dulin is one of two Republicans on the city council (there are nine Democrats). His district occupies a large portion of south Charlotte and many of the city's wealthiest neighborhoods. According to Dulin, the land where he used to herd cattle is now a housing development called Raintree Country Club.

Before 1980, nearly all of the land south of Charlotte's city limits was farmland. Thanks to favorable zoning and the availability of space, much of it has now been converted to housing, retail, schools and other infrastructure necessities. The banks needed workers. The workers needed homes and places to shop.

As the suburbs grew, so did the city. North Carolina law allows cities to annex communities that are adjacent to city limits. So as new, high-paid workers moved to Charlotte and moved into new housing developments, the city absorbed new neighborhoods. This quickly increased Charlotte's tax base and allowed large infrastructure improvement projects to move forward.

Everything in south Charlotte is very new and very clean, and signs of wealth are undeniable. But the area lacks the architectural and historic charm common in cities around the South. As you move away from the city center, homes become more generic. Many housing developments are comprised of seemingly identical McMansions and have names like Ballantyne Commons and Piper Glen. Most of the stores and restaurants that occupy the hundreds of glistening new strip malls are high-end chains.

Source:

<https://www.citylab.com/life/2012/09/anatomy-boomt..>

This article can be edited for elementary students or to make shorter. It discusses changes that have been made to the city to appease the new residents who were coming from large cities like New York, Boston and were used to certain ammenitites and experiences.

<https://www.citylab.com/design/2012/05/charlottes-..>

Summative Performance Task

Compelling Question	What event in Charlotte's history had the most influence on its growth?
Argument	Which event in Charlotte's history had the most influence on growth?
Extension	Should Charlotte try and stop the growth it is experiencing or slow it down in some way?

Argument

Combining what they have learned about the history of Charlotte, the economic factors, and the overall effects on the city, students will choose an event and argue that it had the most impact on the city. Students can also argue that the question can't be answered, as many events impacted Charlotte's development throughout its history.

Extension

Based on whether or not students believe the growth Charlotte has experienced has been positive, they can argue for or against trying to stop the city from becoming too big. Using the same resources or extending their research to find examples of how the city has been positively or negatively impacted will help them form their extension argument.

Taking Informed Action

Understand	How have historical events affected the development of other major cities? Can you find a pattern that links the development of the major cities on the east coast, for example?
Assess	What changes does Charlotte need to make in order to meet the demands of its growing population? Thinking about other, larger cities, what features exist there that help their huge populations of residents live, work, and co-exist "successfully?"
Action	Write to your local government officials informing them of your ideas to help the development of Charlotte be beneficial to its current and future residents.

By looking to larger cities and their infrastructures, policies, and culture, students can understand how historical events factor into the growth of any major city *and* begin to think about the things Charlotte's leaders have to do to prepare the city to meet the needs of its ever growing population. Students can identify ways Charlotte can improve, such as building more public transportation, preserving a sense of historical identity in its choice of buildings to renovate or knock down, etc. By identifying these ways and writing a compelling argument to local officials or people that can use the information, students will be putting their research to use. Although they are elementary students, they can compare Charlotte to other cities and easily identify things like a subway system, taller skyscrapers, or other types of changes that they can write about to put their work to real life.

