

Civic Minds in The Seattle Times

Date: Friday, September 18, 2015

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Article Title: THE BIGGEST BOOM

Section: Main, A1

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of **surge** and write the definition. Create a new sentence using your own words.

“In at least one way, our current boom is a lot like all the previous ones: Whenever a **surge** of new folks move here, you can count on the “native” Seattleites to complain about it.”

Comprehension Questions

1. Well, since 2010 — the year Amazon consolidated operations in South Lake Union and began its hiring spree — Seattle has gained _____ people per year, on average, according to census data.
2. The biggest growth spurt occurred from 2012 to 2013, when Seattle added about _____ residents, making us the fastest-growing big city in the country for that period.
3. In the period of Microsoft’s ascendancy, starting in the _____, and the subsequent dot-com boom of the late 1990s, population gains were far more modest.
4. Even during Boeing’s heyday in the post-World War II era, Seattle’s population bumped up by less than _____ per year.
5. You have to go all the way back to the first decade of the 20th century, in the period right after _____, for a time when Seattle grew faster than it has in the last few years.
6. Between 1900 and 1910, Seattle added more than _____ people annually, tripling the city’s population.
7. But according to Lorraine McConaghy, public historian emeritus at MOHAI, it’s not an entirely fair comparison: “The 1900-1910 population boom is clouded, so to speak, by the annexation boom.” Why?
8. During the population boom in 1900-1910, where did all these new folks wind up living?

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

- ***How do you feel about Seattle’s new growth?***
- ***How do your parents/guardians feel about it? Are your views similar & different? Why?***
- ***Do you find it interesting that large companies can create this much influx to a city? Why or why not?***
- ***How does new growth change the face of a city? Both good and bad changes?***
- ***How does it affect real estate prices? Rent prices? Transportation? Traffic?***

In at least one way, our current boom is a lot like all the previous ones: Whenever a surge of new folks move here, you can count on the “native” Seattleites to complain about it.

- Why would Seattleites complain about population growth?

Essay

“It isn’t the reality of population and demographic change that makes people uneasy, it is their perceptions that do. It’s the sense of lost character and lost familiarity, the threat of the other,” McConaghy says.

- Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Why or why not?
- What perceptions do you have about Seattle?
- Do you see your neighborhood/school changing at all?
- What differences do you see in your own communities?

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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