

Week 8 Discussion

After walking through the Arizona Historical Museum I was drawn to the exhibit that showed the population increase in Phoenix since 1950. I am a native of Phoenix and was surprised when I read that in 1950 Phoenix was the 99th most populated city in America and by the year 2000 it had grown to the 6th most populated state. I know Phoenix has grown over the years but I had no idea that the city has grown as much as it has.

This lesson is designed for a fifth grade class. For my activity I would like for the students to spend some time researching the growing population in Phoenix from 1950 to the present time. The students will have access to the online resources that the museum offers as well as the exhibit located upstairs in the museum. The students will make a graph showing the increase in population throughout the years. The students will then choose another city in the U.S. and chart the growth of that city. The student will then compare the two cities and evaluate which city had a larger overall population growth since 1950. The students will then research what led to the massive increase in the population. The students will find three major reasons why the population in Phoenix increased since 1950. The students will write a one or two paragraph response for each reason. The response will include the reason for the increase in population, example there were many new jobs. The response will also include a “why” to the reason, example why were there so many jobs, what led to so many new jobs. The students will specify times when the growth was more rapid than at other times, and why they believe certain times had more growth than others. Finally the students will locate the neighborhood they currently live in from an aerial map of Phoenix in 1950. They will use cross streets to determine the area.

The students will observe how close or far they live from major stores and other necessities they would need if they were living back in 1950.

