



How Has Tacoma Grown?

Introduction

This lesson is designed for 4th grade students. Students learn about how Tacoma grew to the large city that we know today. Students will examine two historical photographs to learn more about the development of the city of Tacoma, including the importance of the transcontinental railroad. Students will analyze an historical advertisement encouraging people to move to Tacoma; they will use the concepts in the text to compare and contrast the past with the present. Students will use census data from 1870 to 2010 to graph the population growth of Tacoma.

This interdisciplinary lesson includes an analytical inquiry, a close reading and opinion writing activity, and a data graphing exercise. Students will analyze and explain how people from various cultural and ethnic groups have shaped Washington state. This lesson meets 4th grade standards for English Language Arts, Math, and Social Studies.

We recommend completing this lesson over the course of 2-3 days.

Railroad Vocabulary

Caboose: The last car of a train.

Coal: A black mineral that burns and gives off heat, composed mostly of carbon.

Engineer: The person in charge of operating the train.

Locomotive: The first car of a train that pulls the other train cars along the track.

Railroad: A track or set of tracks made of steel rails along which passenger and freight trains travel.

Steam Engine: An engine that uses steam to generate power. The steam is created by heating water with coal, wood, or oil. In the 1800s, steam engines were often used to power trains and ships.

Terminus: The final stop at either end of a transportation line.

Train: A connected line of railroad cars moving along together.

Transcontinental: Extending across a continent

Census Vocabulary

Census: An official count or survey of all the people who live in an area, town or country.

Population: The total number of people who live in an area, town, or country.

Materials

This lesson includes:

- Historic Photograph, Population, 1868
- Tacoma in 1868 Inquiry
- Historic Photograph, NPRR Train, 1873
- Railroad in 1873 Inquiry
- Go To Tacoma Advertisement, 1889
- Go To Tacoma Analysis
- Population of Tacoma, 1870-2010
- Population of Tacoma Line Graph

For this lesson plan you will need:

- A pencil or pen
- A highlighter pen
- A dictionary
- A ruler



Background Information

Did you know that Tacoma is the third largest city in the State of Washington? Let's find out how Tacoma grew to become the city that we know today.

The Development of Tacoma

Job Carr and other American settlers were not the first people to live along Commencement Bay. The area where the city of Tacoma now stands is the traditional land of the Puyallup people, where they continue to make their home and speak the Lushootseed language. The Puyallup Tribe of Indians have lived along the shores of Puget Sound, near the Puyallup River, and in the foothills of Mt. Tacoma (Rainier) for thousands of years.

Soon after Job moved here other settlers arrived in the area too.

- Job Carr arrived on Puget Sound in 1864 at the age of 51. He built his cabin in 1865.
- Anthony Carr arrived at Job Carr's cabin in 1865 at the age of 24.
- Howard Carr arrived at Job Carr's cabin in 1866 at the age of 20.
- Marietta Carr arrived at Job Carr's cabin in 1867 at the age of 18.
- Morton Matthew McCarver was the next to arrive at Job Carr's cabin in 1868. His family soon followed. McCarver was Tacoma's first booster, encouraging many others to move to here.

Take a look at the Historic Photograph showing the population of Tacoma in 1868. When this picture was taken, there were about 40 settlers living in the small community near Job's cabin.

Use the photograph to answer the first set of questions on the Tacoma in 1868 Inquiry.

The Railroad Comes to Tacoma

Job Carr and other early settlers wanted to see Tacoma grow into a great city. They were excited to tell other people about the town and began to invite more people to be their neighbors. The settlers thought that Tacoma was a great place to live and that it had a very promising future ahead. They believed that Tacoma was the perfect place for the terminus of the transcontinental railroad. Trains would make it much easier and faster to travel here. Instead of traveling across the country on the Oregon Trail for 4-6 months, train passengers could make the journey in 1-2 weeks.

The Northern Pacific Railroad (NPRR) began building train tracks for its transcontinental railroad in 1870. The tracks started in Minnesota at the Great Lakes. In July 1873, the NPRR announced that it had chosen Tacoma as the terminus on Puget Sound.

The railroad company needed many workers to construct the train tracks. They hired immigrants from Europe and China to build the railroad. It was very difficult work. Before laying the track, they first needed to clear rocks and trees out of the way, dig trenches, build bridges, and carve tunnels. They worked every day from dawn until dusk, no matter the weather.



The Chinese immigrants often faced discrimination. They were paid less than the white workers. Some settlers and other railroad workers were fearful of the Chinese laborers because they looked and spoke differently.

Take a look at the Historic Photograph of the NPRR train from 1873. This picture shows the first train to arrive in Tacoma on December 16, 1873. Some of the railroad bosses and employees are standing around the steam train.

Use the photograph to answer the questions on the Railroad in 1873 Inquiry.

Soon after the train arrived, the city of Tacoma had many new residents, businesses, and community buildings. People from all around the country and the world arrived to live in Tacoma.

Go To Tacoma

Take a look at the Go To Tacoma Advertisement from 1889.

- Did you know that Washington became the 42nd state on November 11, 1889?

Read through the Go To Tacoma Advertisement two times.

The first time you read through the text, look for words that you do not know. Since it was written a long time ago, some of the words might be unfamiliar to you. If you are unsure about an unusual word or phrase, underline it. Examples of some words that you might not know include investment, navigation, tributary, and salubrious.

The second time you read through the text, look for evidence that the author uses to support the idea that you should Go To Tacoma. As you read, use a **highlighter pen** to identify key words or phrases that tell you why Tacoma is a good place to live and work.

Take a look at the Go To Tacoma Analysis.

First you are going to choose one vocabulary word that you found during your first reading of the advertisement that you would like to know more about. For example, you might choose the word "investment."

Now, you are going to find out the definition of your vocabulary word. Look closely at the other words surrounding your vocabulary word in the advertisement to see if the context can give you any clues about the definition. Next, look up the word using a dictionary. If you do not have a dictionary at home, you can use an online dictionary. We recommend using www.dictionary.com and www.merriam-webster.com. You can even compare the definitions provided by different dictionaries since they are not always the same. Then, write a new sentence using your vocabulary word.



Next, you are going to choose one of the seven reasons from the advertisement about why Tacoma is a good place to go. For example, you might choose the first claim from the advertisement: “1. **Tacoma** is the western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad, the greatest of the transcontinental railroads.” Then, answer the questions in the space provided on the analysis sheet.

The Population of Tacoma

Take a look at the chart Population of Tacoma, 1870-2010. Every 10 years, the United States government conducts a census to count every person living in the country. This chart shows the census population data for Tacoma from 1870 to 2010.

Take a look at the Population of Tacoma Line Graph. You are going to create a line graph showing how the population of Tacoma has grown since 1870. Line graphs help you to see how something changes over time.

The years are written along the bottom of your graph (1870 to 2010). This is the horizontal X axis.

The possible number of people is written along the left side of the graph in increments or sets of 10,000. This is the vertical Y axis.

For each year, put a dot on the graph for the number of people recorded in the census. Since the scale for the Y axis is dividing into segments of 10,000 people, it might be helpful to round the population numbers when deciding where to place your dot for each year.

The first dot for 1870 and last dot for 2010 are provided to help you get started. You might notice that the dot for 1870 is nearly at 0 along the Y axis, and the dot for 2010 is nearly at 200,000.

When you have put a dot for the population of each year on your graph, then use a ruler to draw a line connecting the dots from left to right.

Once you have completed the line graph, use your results to respond to the questions.

Job Carr Cabin Museum

Learn at Home

How Has Tacoma Grown?



Want to Learn More:

Watch this video to see a steam locomotive in action at The Henry Ford:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQd66DWKo9c>

Find out how a steam engine works in this short video from the BBC Earth Lab:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Caqf4hQBYBI>

Try making a model steam engine with these instructions from an elementary school science project:

<http://steamsciproj.blogspot.com/>

Explore Tacoma's Prairie Line Trail, with a walking tour and activity book about the place where the railroad tracks were first built through Downtown Tacoma: <https://www.prairieline-trail.org/for-kids>

Learn more about the experience of Tacoma's Chinese immigrants by exploring Chinese Reconciliation Park on the Old Town Tacoma waterfront: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?431234-1/chinese-expulsion-reconciliation>

Ask a grown-up when your family moved to Tacoma. Why did your family move here? Was it for any of the reasons that were highlighted in the Go To Tacoma advertisement?



Tacoma Population, 1868



Source: Herbert Hunt's History of Tacoma



Tacoma in 1868 Inquiry

Look closely at the photograph from 1868

Use the Historic Photograph, Population, 1868 to help you write your responses to the questions below.

- What are three things that you notice in this photograph?
 - _____.
 - _____.
 - _____.
- Can you find Job Carr in this photograph?*
- What is something that is different about what the people in the photograph are wearing and the clothes that you usually wear?
 - _____.
- The Native Americans who lived in this area were left out of this photograph which claimed to show the population of Tacoma in 1868. How do you think it might feel to be left out?
 - _____.
 - _____.
- How can you help to include everyone in your community?
 - _____.
 - _____.

**Hint: Job Carr is the third person standing from the left in the photograph.*



NPRR – First Train to Tacoma, 1873



Source: Unknown



Railroad in 1873 Inquiry

Look closely at the photograph from 1873

Use the Historic Photograph, Railroad, 1873 to help you write your responses to the questions below.

- What are three things that you notice in this photograph?
 - _____.
 - _____.
 - _____.
- Can you find the train engineer?*
- Can you find someone who looks like a boss of the railroad company? Why do you think this person is in charge?
 - _____.
- The Chinese railroad workers are missing from this picture. How do you think it might feel to work very hard on a big project but not be included in the picture?
 - _____.
 - _____.
- How can you help everyone to feel recognized and celebrated for their contributions in the community?
 - _____.
 - _____.

**Hint: The train engineer is wearing a square cap and standing inside the locomotive.*



Go To Tacoma Advertisement, 1889

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TACOMA CITY DIRECTORY.

TACOMA

— THE —

WESTERN TERMINUS

OF THE NORTHERN PACIFIC R. R.

IF YOU WANT

A Home or An Investment

IN THE NORTHWEST

GO TO TACOMA.

BECAUSE:

1. Tacoma is the western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad, the greatest of the transcontinental roads.

2. Tacoma is at the head of navigation on Puget Sound, the "Mediterranean of America," whose Port of Entry enters and clears more shipping than any Port of Entry in the United States, except New York and San Francisco.

3. Tacoma will be the shipping port for all the wheat raised in Eastern Washington, and for much of that raised in Oregon.

4. Tacoma ships more lumber and coal than any other port on Puget Sound, and has tributary to it vast deposits of coal—the best in the Pacific Northwest—and is in the heart of the finest timber in the world.

5. Tacoma is destined, from its location, to be the great distributing point for Eastern Washington, Idaho, and a great part of Oregon.

6. Tacoma has never been "boomed," but has steadily grown since 1880, when the population (by census) was 720, to the present time, when the population is about 25,000.

7. Tacoma's climate is excellent, the average temperature in winter being 41 degrees above zero, and in summer about 65 degrees. The summer climate is mild, dry and salubrious; the rain fall is in winter, which is quite as healthful as the summer.

For lots in Tacoma, or information, apply or write to

ISAAC W. ANDERSON,
General Manager Tacoma Land Co.,
N. P. R. R. Hdqrs Bldg, Pacific Ave. and 7th St.,
TACOMA, WASH.



Go To Tacoma Analysis

Close reading and opinion writing about Go To Tacoma, 1889.

Use the Go To Tacoma Advertisement, 1889 to help you write your responses below.

Vocabulary Word: _____

Definition: _____

Write a new sentence using your vocabulary word: _____

Which statement do you think is the strongest evidence that Tacoma is a good place to go?

Statement #: _____

Why do you think this statement is a good reason for people to move to Tacoma in the 1880s?



What do you think is missing from the list of reasons about why Tacoma is a good place to live?

The area where Tacoma now stands is the traditional land of the Puyallup people. They lived here for thousands of years before the settlers arrived. What things mentioned in this ad might have bothered them? Why do you think they might feel this way?

If you saw this advertisement in a newspaper or on the internet today, do you think it would convince you that Tacoma was a good place to live and work? Why or why not?



What is your favorite part about living in Tacoma today?

Write a new statement for the advertisement that you think could convince people to move to Tacoma today.



**Population of Tacoma
1870 - Present**

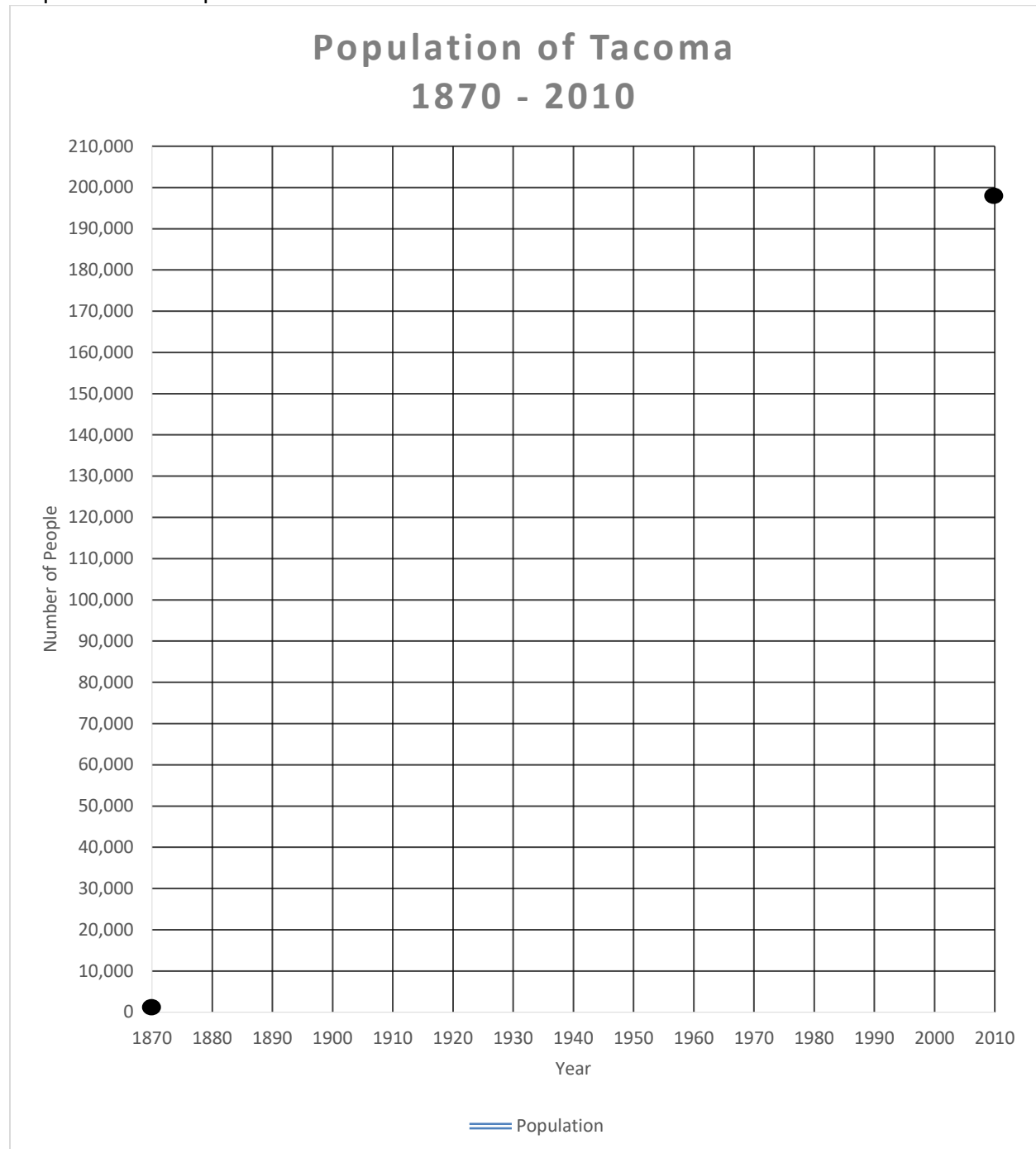
Year	Number of People
1870	73
1880	1,008
1890	36,006
1900	37,714
1910	83,714
1920	96,965
1930	106,817
1940	109,408
1950	143,673
1960	147,979
1970	154,581
1980	158,501
1990	177,341
2000	193,878
2010	198,397



Population of Tacoma Line Graph

Look closely at the population of Tacoma data.

Use the population data from the census to help you create a line graph and write your responses to the questions below.





- How many years did it take for the population of Tacoma to reach 100,000 people?

- _____.

- In which 10 year period did the population of Tacoma change the most?

- _____.

- In which 10 year period did the population of Tacoma change the least?

- _____.

- Based on the trends in your line graph, when do you predict that the population of Tacoma might reach 250,000 people?

- _____.