

Source 1: profile of Lucy Maddison.

Age:

She is 30 years old.

Family background:

Her family has lived in Ohio for several generations.

Her Great Grandfather was an Italian immigrant, moving to Ohio in 1920 at the age of 20, hoping to live the American dream. Initially joining the 20000 other Italian immigrants in Cleveland, her Grandfather gained employment as a day labourer, working in several factories.

Her Grandfather (born 1928) worked in one of Youngstown's biggest steel mills (Youngstown Sheet and Tube) between 1946 and its closure in 1977. After being made redundant, her grandfather set up his own paving business, which grew into a successful family business and is now run by her parents.

Educational background:

She graduated from Chaney High School in Youngstown. Her family wanted her to consider attending Youngstown State University, but she decided not to apply.

She left Youngstown to go to Ohio State University, 199 miles and four hours drive away. Ohio University is ranked 166 in the university league table, out of 3254 institutions, compared with Youngstown's rank of 359.

She achieved a Master's degree in City Planning.

Career:

Her first job was a research role at the University of Ohio.

She then moved into a role as an urban designer for a design firm in Chicago.

Source 2: mystery cards

<p>A “buzzfeed” list in 2014 placed Youngstown the 9th bleakest place to live on earth, one place in front of Dhaka in Bangladesh.</p>	<p>Youngstown’s population is diverse, and is a legacy of the era of rapid immigration to meet the demands of the growing steel industry.</p>	<p>There are emotional rewards as well as economic benefits from being part of a de-industrialised city engaged in revitalisation processes.</p>
<p>One return migrant argued that in New York and Chicago you are a cog in a great big machine, whereas being a big fish in a small pond means you can make stuff happen with enough energy and ambition.</p>	<p>The power of trade unions diminished after 1980 following the election of President Reagan. A pivotal moment was his Government’s sacking of 12000 air traffic controllers who went out on strike in 1981.</p>	<p>A reverse of the gentrification process has occurred in Rust Belt cities; whereas gentrification leads to high-income neighbourhoods expanding into low-income neighbourhoods, reverse gentrification involves high-income neighbourhoods, contracting as border areas become low-income.</p>
<p>Although out migration was initially driven by industrial decline, crippling winters contributed to a drift from the Rust Belt to the so-called Sun Belt, a region stretching across the south-east and south west of the country.</p>	<p>Between 1900 and 1930, Youngstown’s population boomed, fueled by immigrants from eastern and southern Europe, the largest groups being Italian, Slovak, Hungarian, Polish and Greek.</p>	<p>The formerly vacant downtown area of Youngstown has started to be revitalised, and is visible through restaurants, businesses and loft-style apartments in many of the long-abandoned buildings.</p>
<p>Although most Rust Belt (legacy) cities still experience population loss, the rate of loss has slowed over the past 10 years.</p>	<p>Return migrants who move back to their home towns are described as “boomerangers”.</p>	<p>The steel industry in USA went through a recession between 1974 and 1986.</p>
<p>In the 1950’s Youngstown was the nation’s third largest producer of steel, behind only Chicago and Pittsburgh.</p>	<p>In the span of 25 years, the city once known as “Steeltown, USA” had become known as “Murder Town, USA”.</p>	<p>Youngstown is a low-rent city compared with nearby cities such as Cleveland and Pittsburgh.</p>

<p>Youngstown has a notorious reputation for crime and corruption, and is seen as being the “poster child for de-industrialisation”.</p>	<p>In 2013, Youngstown was chosen to be the home of a research institute specialising in the area of 3D printing, in a program started by President Obama.</p>	<p>Return migration is seen as an important way of revitalising places struggling with population loss, especially in rural and de-industrialised areas.</p>
<p>Two of the most powerful trade unions are based in the Rust Belt: The United Steelworkers (USW) and the United Auto Workers (UAW).</p>	<p>Youngstown has earned a reputation for political corruption, in part caused by the influence of the mafia.</p>	<p>Several technology firms have realised Youngstown’s potential as a low-rent city with desirable proximity to larger cities such as Cleveland and Pittsburgh.</p>
<p>Manufacturing workers in the Rust Belt made about 13% more than similar workers in other regions from 1950 to 1980.</p>	<p>Studies have found that return migrants are more likely to be older and possess lower levels of education and skills.</p>	<p>In 1950 the Rust Belt (not including New York) contained 33% of the population of USA. By 2000, this share had fallen to 25%.</p>
<p>Between 1979 and 1982 more than 150000 steelworkers were made redundant.</p>	<p>Youngstown’s population fell from 95732 in 1990 to 66982 in 2010.</p>	<p>Youngstown never diversified its economy beyond steel.</p>
<p>When interviewed about their reasons for returning to Youngstown, many return migrants spoke about the significance of growing up in a multi-ethnic community with tight-knit family structures.</p>	<p>Research conducted on return migration shows that “place character” is an important factor in why return migrants decide to return.</p>	<p>Youngstown’s identity was forged around the shared work of steel-making; the relationship between work and place helped give individuals a sense of themselves.</p>

Sources used for information:

- www.clevelandfed.org/newsroom-and-events/publications/economic-commentary/2013-economic-commentaries/ec-201306-urban-decline-in-rust-belt-cities.aspx
- www.forbes.com/sites/adammillsap/2017/01/09/the-rust-belt-didnt-adapt-and-it-paid-the-price/#7948d3567a3d
- theconversation.com/lessons-from-the-steel-crisis-of-the-1980s-57751

Source 3: Youngstown, Ohio statistics.**Crime statistics (changes between 2002-2016).**

	2002	2016
Murders	33	12
Rapes	54	28
Assaults	574	224
Robberies	298	151
Theft	2,631	1,264
Burglaries	1,832	921
Auto theft	493	241
Arson	281	137

Crime index (2016): 8 out of 100 (safer than 8% of cities).

Households:

- Median home value = \$37759.
- Change in value since 2000 = ↓7.75%
- Median home value for USA = \$188900

Homeownership rate:

- Owners = 51.4%
- Renters = 48.6%
- Vacant dwellings = 20.2%
- Household income = \$24133
- USA average = \$53657
- Per capita income = \$15056
- USA average = \$28889

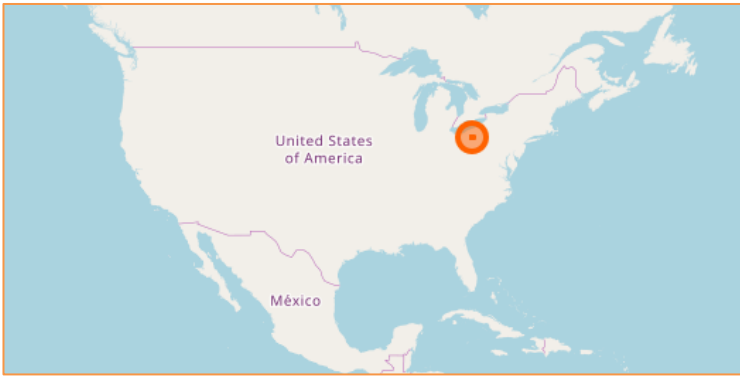
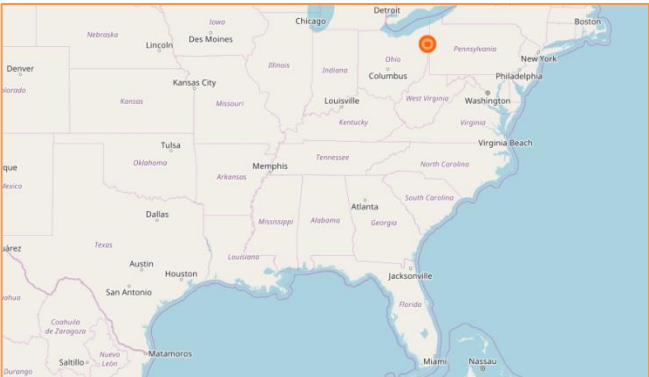
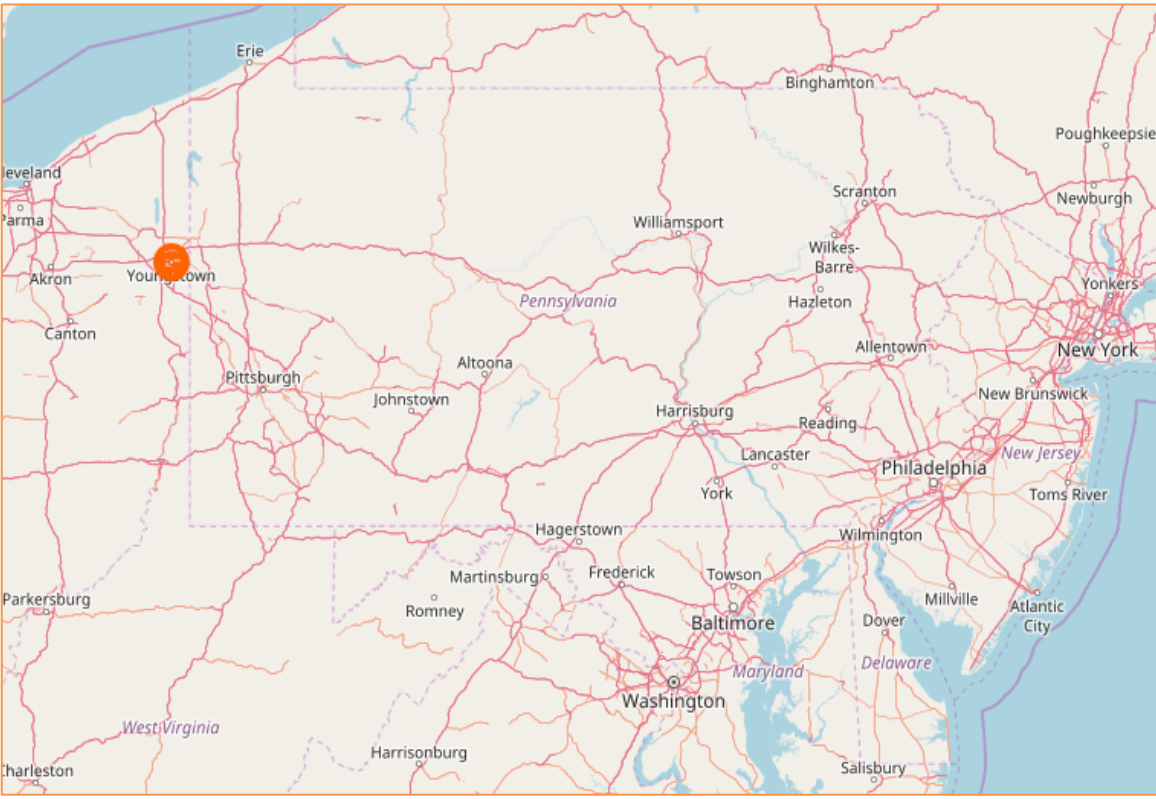
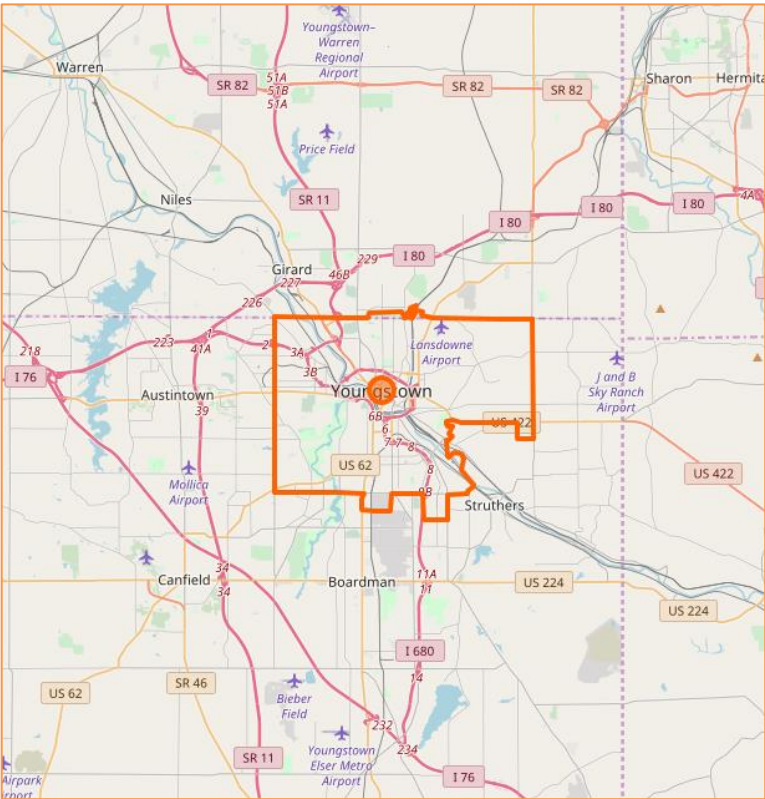
Demographic:

- Population (April 2010) = 66982
- Population (July 2016) = 64312
- % population change April 2010-July 2016 = ↓4%

Population structure (2010):

- Persons under 5 = 6.7%
- 5-17 year olds = 16.1%
- 18-24 = 10.7%
- 25-34 = 12.3%
- 35-54 = 24.2%
- 55-64 = 14%
- 65 years and over = 16%

Source 4: maps of Youngstown, Ohio.



Source 5: photographs of Youngstown, Ohio.

1. Youngstown Sheet and Tube, closed since 1977



2. A derelict steel mill



3. Revitalising downtown Youngstown.



4. New development - Youngstown Technical Centre.



Sources:

© stu_spivack, 2006, commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Youngstown_Sheet%26Tube_Abandoned.jpg

© Chris Murphy, 2006, www.flickr.com/photos/chrisurf/192374510

© Ohio Redevelopment Project, 2011, www.flickr.com/photos/63837784@N08/5937681740

© Ohio Redevelopment Project, 2011, www.flickr.com/photos/63837784@N08/5937680386/in/album-72157627194551806/

Teachers notes

This activity is designed for students to consider the causes and consequences of de-industrialisation in the city of Youngstown, Ohio. The activity is a mystery and decision-making exercise and will encourage students to make more complex geographical connections between different strands of information.

Context:

Youngstown was a major steel-making city, at one point having a population of 170000 residents in 1930. This population has declined to its current level of just under 67000, and this decline has largely been attributed to out-migration occurring primarily as a result of the decline of the steel mills. This decline has given rise to the term “Rust Belt” to describe the north-east region of USA which used to be the steel making heart of the USA but has experienced significant decline, with 150000 steelworkers being made redundant in just three years between 1979-1982.

Youngstown was particularly hard hit, as it failed to diversify its economy and so was particularly susceptible to the consequences of de-industrialisation. Youngstown has endured unwanted attention as a corrupt city, with high crime rates and unemployment levels.

Youngstown is still experiencing significant out-migration, with its population declining by around 5% in the last eight years. However, the city is attempting to revitalise itself. Whilst it is too early to suggest urban resurgence is occurring in Youngstown, there are some signs of recovery, with investment returning to the formerly derelict downtown region and some “out-migrants” returning to their home towns. These so-called “boomerangers” may hold the key to Youngstown’s revitalisation, as they have a connection to the city which means they are emotionally committed to improving the city, rather than just moving there for practical reasons.

It is within this context that students must decide whether someone who grew up in Youngstown but now lives in Chicago should move back to her hometown. Personalising the activity will help students to go beyond simple figures and statistics and connect with the human aspects of de-industrialisation.

Lesson management, using the PowerPoint slide show:

Slide 1: starter.

Students listen to the Bruce Springsteen song “Youngstown” and study his lyrics, which chart the history of Youngstown’s rise and fall.

Using songs can provoke different responses to subject matter. Students should be encouraged to form their own impressions of the song, whilst recognising that the song represents the collapse of major industries that once formed a significant part of Northern/Eastern USA economies. Cities such as Youngstown have fallen into decline and are part of a region referred to as the Rust Belt.

Slide 2-4:

Introduce activity and provide overall objectives and context.

Slide 5:

This task will help students to get into character. This is an important task as they will get more from the activity if they can try to put themselves in the shoes of a former resident of Youngstown considering returning to their home city. The character is made up but based on research, which examined motivations behind return migrants decisions to return to Youngstown.

Slides 6-9:

These slides guide students through the activity. They should be able to work independently, using the mystery cards as well as the other supplementary resources (sources 1-5) and your role can be as manager, moving around the groups asking questions/prompting discussions to keep them on track. There is a small example of how information can be connected and discussed on slide 9.

Slide 10-11:

Five initial questions building to the final question, which could take the form of an extended piece of writing, using appropriate evidence and information to support arguments. This exercise will enable students to practice the type of response needed for the 20 mark questions in the exam, which often require students to provide both sides of a point of view before arriving at an overall conclusion.

Slide 12:

A debrief session to allow students to reflect on how they worked (“learning to learn”). It is important to conduct a debrief for you and the class to evaluate the activity.