

Room To Grow Answer Key

1. Possible answers: crowded rooms; no running water; poor ventilation; piles of garbage; unsafe conditions
2. Possible answers: access to clean water, electricity, heat; safer housing; building codes; improved services
3. Similar challenges: limited space; high living costs; busy/noisy neighborhoods; adapting to a new environment
4. Chart
Then: overcrowding, dark rooms, little fresh air
Now: safer housing, better utilities, more access to services
samples:
5. Opinion question - look for evidence-based responses (students should connect answer to passage details)

Teacher's Guide

- Pre-teach vocabulary: ventilation, building codes, crowded, tenements
- Use a T-chart on the board as a model before independent work
- Encourage the use of highlighted or underlined evidence from the passage

Differentiation Strategies:

- Provide sentence starters: "One challenge was..." "Today, immigrants have..."
- Allow verbal responses before writing for emerging learners
- Offer larger chart spaces or graphic organizers for accessibility needs

Engagement Ideas:

- Show photographs of historical tenements and modern apartments
- Class discussion: "Would you want to live in a big city? Why or why not?"
- Small groups create two illustrated posters labeled "Then" and "Now"

Extension Options:

- Research a specific historic immigrant neighborhood (e.g., Little Italy, Lower East Side)
- Compare living conditions in urban vs. rural immigrant communities today
- Connect to primary sources such as Jacob Riis's photographs