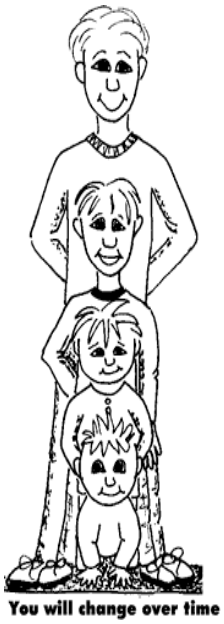
Name: _____

Date: _____

THE FOURTH DIMENSION

You are not exactly the same person you were five years ago, and five years from now, you will continue to change in ways large and small. Places also change over time. Forests become neighborhoods. Dirt roads become highways. Small towns grow into crowded cities.

Historians and geographers study these changes by comparing people and places across time. We live in a three-dimensional world, but historians and geographers sometimes refer to change over time as the fourth dimension.



You will change over time

Often, a single map cannot tell the story of a place. In 1776, the United States consisted of only thirteen states along the Atlantic coast. By 1912, forty-eight states stretched across the North American continent. Alaska and Hawaii joined the Union in 1959.

Rome grew from a small village beside the Tiber River in 753 BCE to become the greatest empire of the ancient world. Ancient Rome once ruled lands across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. But the empire weakened and fell as time passed. Today, Rome is one of the most visited cities in the world, but it is no longer independent and no longer controls the vast lands once ruled by the Roman Empire. It is now the capital city of the Republic of Italy.

Maps can provide a snapshot of history. By comparing maps from different years, historians and geographers can see how people and places changed over time.

Fill in the Blanks

People and places change over t_____. Forests can become neighborhoods, and small towns can grow into large c__t__es. Historians and geographers s__u__y these c__a__g__s by comparing maps, people, and places from different periods in history. They sometimes describe change over time as the f__u__th d__m__n__i__n. Maps can help show how nations and cities changed. In 1776, the United States had only t__i__t__en s__a__es, but by 1959 it had f__f__y states. Rome also changed greatly over time. It grew from a small v__l__a__e into a powerful e__p__re, but today it is the c__p__t__l city of I__a__y. By studying change over time, historians can better understand h__s__o__y.

Answer in a complete sentence

*1. Explain how the United States has changed over time.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

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*Higher-order question: Answer to the best of your ability; any reasonable answer will be accepted.

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