

Instructions: Match each word below with its correct definition.

1. Gentrification
2. Displace
3. Disproportionate
4. Marginalized
5. Revitalization

___ To compel people or animals to move out of the area where they live.

___ To make something active, healthy, or energetic again.

___ Having or showing a difference that is not fair or expected.

___ To put or keep someone in a powerless or unimportant position within a society or group.

___ A process that can occur when wealthier people move into lower-income neighborhoods, prompting cultural shifts, increases in prices, and the displacement of long-standing, lower-income residents.

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What is Gentrification, and How Does it Affect Communities?

Gentrification is a term used to describe the economic and cultural changes that occur when wealthier residents move into predominantly lower-income, urban neighborhoods. This shift often brings new investments, as seen in areas like Brooklyn, New York, and Shoreditch in London, where trendy cafes, art galleries, and high-end apartments have replaced older businesses and homes. The inflow of wealth **pumps economic investment** into these neighborhoods, making them more desirable and leading to rapid increases in property values and **rents**.

While this boost in resources can improve safety, services, and infrastructure, it also significantly changes the **character and culture** of these neighborhoods. For example, in neighborhoods such as San Francisco's Mission District, the influx of wealthier newcomers has caused traditional businesses to close, often impacting the community's Latino identity. As property prices rise, many **long-term residents** find themselves **priced out** and **displaced**, forced to relocate to more affordable areas farther from their original communities.

Gentrification often affects **marginalized** communities, including **communities of color** and lower-income residents. In cities like Los Angeles, for instance, working-class neighborhoods face a growing **displacement** of residents due to gentrification, with new, wealthier tenants taking their place. This displacement doesn't only impact individuals; it can erode a neighborhood's identity, breaking up family networks and cultural traditions that may have been in place for generations.

Revitalization efforts that come with gentrification are frequently a double-edged sword. On the one hand, they bring in resources, new job opportunities, and infrastructure improvements, which can benefit some residents. On the other hand, they create **disproportionate** benefits, as these improvements primarily cater to new, wealthier residents. For example, in the process of revitalizing Washington, D.C.'s Shaw neighborhood, long-term residents noticed that many new services—like organic markets and boutique shops—catered mostly to affluent newcomers, not the existing community.

Lastly, gentrification can lead to **racial tensions** in affected neighborhoods. The arrival of mostly white, affluent newcomers in areas like Harlem, New York, has led to concerns that the neighborhood's history and culture are being lost. This shift can inadvertently make **lower-income** residents and **communities of color** feel **marginalized** or unwelcome, as their familiar spaces are transformed and replaced by new, unfamiliar establishments.

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Comprehension Questions

What is the main economic impact of gentrification on lower-income neighborhoods?

- a) It introduces affordable housing options for all residents.
- b) It brings in new investments, raising the desirability and property values of the area.
- c) It causes an immediate reduction in property taxes for long-term residents.

How does the writer view the improvement of safety and services as a result of gentrification?

- a) As a purely positive effect that benefits all community members equally.
- b) As a complex benefit that, while positive, also leads to unintended negative consequences.
- c) As an unnecessary change that disrupts traditional community structures.

What can be inferred about the writer's perspective on the displacement of long-term residents?

- a) The writer suggests that displacement is an unfortunate but avoidable side effect of gentrification.
- b) The writer indicates that displacement is a common and often unavoidable outcome of rising property values.
- c) The writer views displacement as rare, with most residents choosing to remain in the area.

Which statement best represents the writer's stance on racial tensions caused by gentrification?

- a) The writer is neutral on the issue and doesn't explicitly address any racial impact.
- b) The writer implies that gentrification may exacerbate racial tensions by displacing communities of color.
- c) The writer suggests that racial tensions are reduced when more diverse, wealthier populations move into the area.

How does gentrification affect the "character and culture" of a community, according to the article?

- a) It largely preserves the original character while adding new cultural influences.
- b) It transforms the community's character, sometimes resulting in a loss of traditional elements.
- c) It creates a blend of old and new cultures, keeping the original character intact.

Based on the article, which of the following best describes the writer's overall perspective on gentrification?

- a) The writer acknowledges some benefits of gentrification but highlights significant social costs, especially for lower-income residents.
- b) The writer believes gentrification is overwhelmingly positive due to the economic growth and improved infrastructure it brings.
- c) The writer takes a neutral stance, avoiding any judgment on the positive or negative impacts of gentrification.

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Read each statement and decide if it is True, False, or Not Given according to the article.



1. Gentrification only happens in wealthy neighborhoods.

2. In Brooklyn, New York, gentrification has led to the opening of new cafes and art galleries.

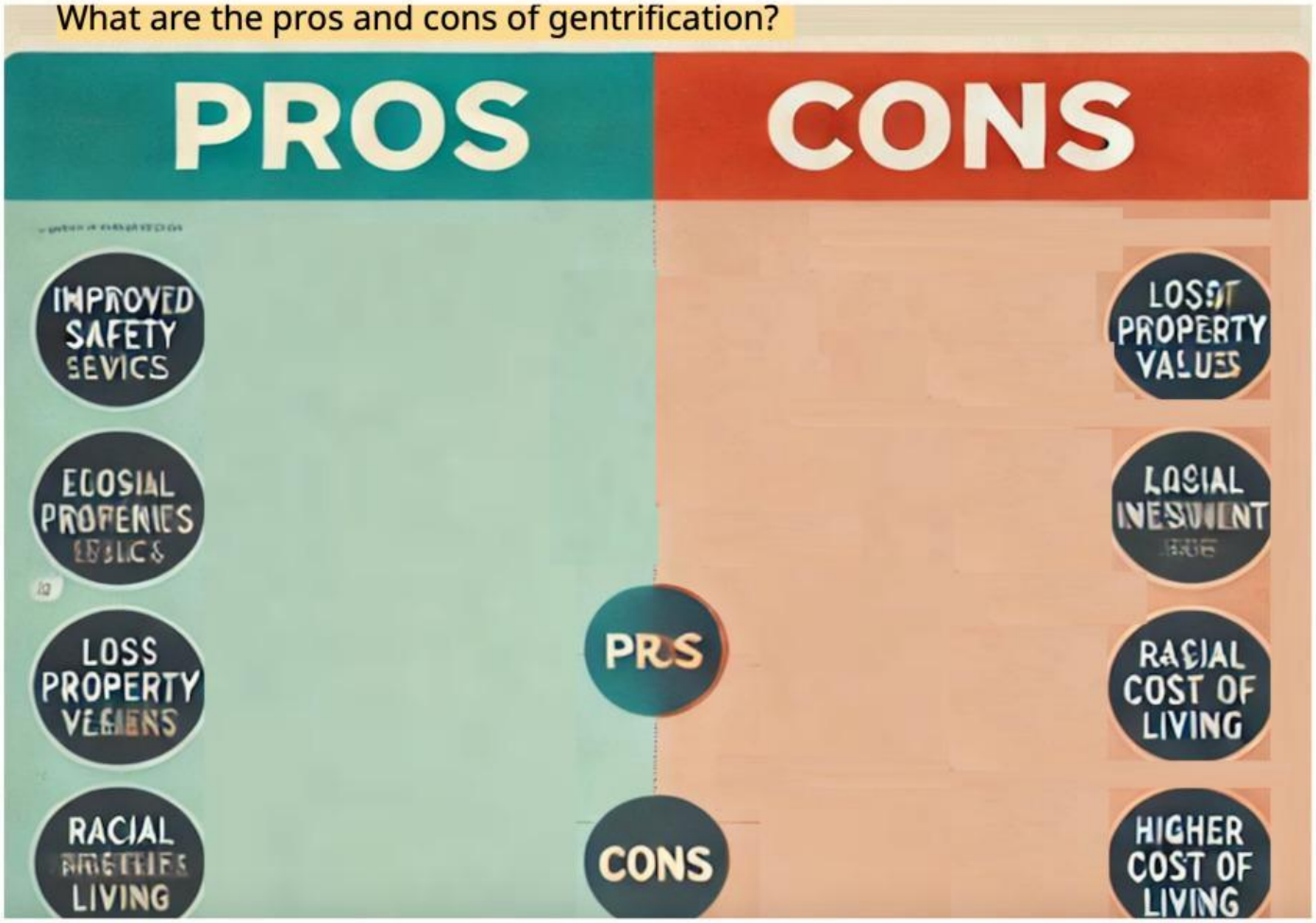
3. San Francisco's Mission District has a large Latino population that has been impacted by gentrification.

4. The article states that gentrification has reduced job opportunities in many neighborhoods.

5. In Washington, D.C.'s Shaw neighborhood, many new services cater primarily to affluent newcomers.

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What are the pros and cons of gentrification?



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