

Spirn, "The Granite Garden"

What are some examples of cities built with "respect for the limitations of nature"?

Where do we look for evidence of natural processes and topography in a built-up urban environment?

Drawing on what you know from lectures and readings, what are some parallels between Boston's development (as Spirn describes it) and Seattle's?

What happened in Boston in terms of water supplies, native plants and animals, and air quality? What happened in your block that paralleled these developments?

As visible "nature" diminished in the centers of cities, how and where did people search for nature elsewhere? What, in Spirn's opinion, did the search for nature mean for how cities and regions developed through the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

Who was Ebenezer Howard and what was his Garden City idea?

Sies, "North American Suburbs"

How has the academic study of the history of cities and suburbs changed in recent decades? What are two examples of findings that go against earlier conventional wisdom about suburban development?

What are the author's suggested sources and research methods for suburban history?

What stereotypes about suburbs does Sies argue against? What data does she use to make this argument? In what form does she present this data?

After reading this article, what have you learned about suburban history that you did not know before?

Beecher, "How to Redeem Woman's Profession from Dishonor"

What is woman's profession? What arguments is Beecher making about how women should be prepared for this work? How do these arguments reflect changes in industrial and social structure after the market revolution of the early nineteenth century?

What are the "Christian principles" on which families should build their homes, according to Beecher? What kinds of labor goes on in the home, and who does it?

What do Beecher's interior design and architectural recommendations tell you about the consumer culture of mid-nineteenth century America? What are the kinds of appliances, furniture, and amenities she expects any proper home to possess? How does this reflect changing patterns of work and family life?

What is the broader social benefit of a "Christian home," according to Beecher? How does Beecher's homemaking advice compare and contrast to the advice given homemakers and mothers today? Is today's advice also presumed to have a larger social benefit?