



# Moving Towns Somewhere Else

## Part 1

**Teacher Reads** People move to new places, but entire towns and cities can also be moved. Natural disasters like floods and earthquakes can force towns and cities to be moved. Human projects like building airports or dams can also result in whole towns being moved. Read on to learn about the relocation of some towns.

Sometimes people need to move a town in order to save it. In  
13 1894, the town of **Katonah, New York**, was going to be destroyed.  
25 A man-made lake behind a dam was being created to store water  
38 for residents in the area. The town was in the way because when  
51 the lake was filled, the town would be submerged.

60 To avoid destruction of the town, residents chose to  
69 move it. They purchased nearby land, and then workers moved  
79 about 55 buildings from the old town site to the new site. Using  
92 tools, workers hoisted, or raised up, buildings onto tracks made  
102 from pine tree timbers. The tracks were lubricated with ordinary  
112 laundry soap so the buildings could slide on them. Then, horses  
123 dragged the buildings on the tracks to the new site.

133 Though the residents of Old Katonah hated to move, there were  
144 some benefits to life in New Katonah. First, the streets were wider  
156 with parks running down the center. Next, many houses and stores  
167 had electric lighting for the first time. Finally, telephones that were  
178 only in a few Old Katonah houses were installed in all homes.



## Part 2

**Teacher Reads** Things that are part of nature can also lead towns and cities to move. That was true for Vidalia, Louisiana.

190 The Mississippi River flows right past the city of  
199 **Vidalia, Louisiana**. In 1927, the river flooded the city.  
208 The water destroyed many buildings. A plan was made  
217 to avoid more destruction from flooding. Workers  
224 made the river wider and constructed dams along the  
233 riverbanks. In addition, the city of Vidalia was moved  
242 a mile inland in 1938. This put the city out of the reach  
255 of river floods.

## Part 3

**Teacher Reads** Towns and cities may also move because of important projects that people put in place.

258 In the 1990s, the airport in **Louisville, Kentucky**,  
266 decided to add runways. The two additional runways  
274 would increase the number of flights landing at the  
283 airport. As a result, residents in nearby **Minor Lane**  
292 **Heights** would experience additional airport noise. A  
299 plan was made to use funds to purchase the houses near  
310 the airport, and the owners could take that money and  
320 buy houses in other locations.

325 However, not all residents were happy with the idea  
334 of moving. They loved their small town and wanted to  
344 stay together as a community. So, a special relocation  
353 plan was designed: a house swap in which residents  
362 would trade their current house for a house in a new  
373 town called **Heritage Creek**. The airport purchased  
380 land ten miles away and arranged for new houses to  
390 be built that were similar to residents' existing houses.  
399 Residents selected their site in the new town and the  
409 house model they preferred. When their house was  
417 finished, their belongings were moved to it. In this case,  
427 the houses were not moved; the whole community moved.

436 Today, new construction projects, such as highways,  
443 dams, and airports, are being planned. Land is also being lost  
454 to rising sea levels. How many towns will need to be moved  
466 in the coming years?

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