

The Opportunity Atlas

Use The Opportunity Atlas for this activity: <https://www.opportunityatlas.org>.

1. Conduct Research

Imagine you are moving to the United States from another country and are unsure where to live. Use data from The Opportunity Atlas to determine which of two cities has more opportunity for your social mobility.

First, write down the cities that your teacher names as City 1 and City 2.

City 1: _____

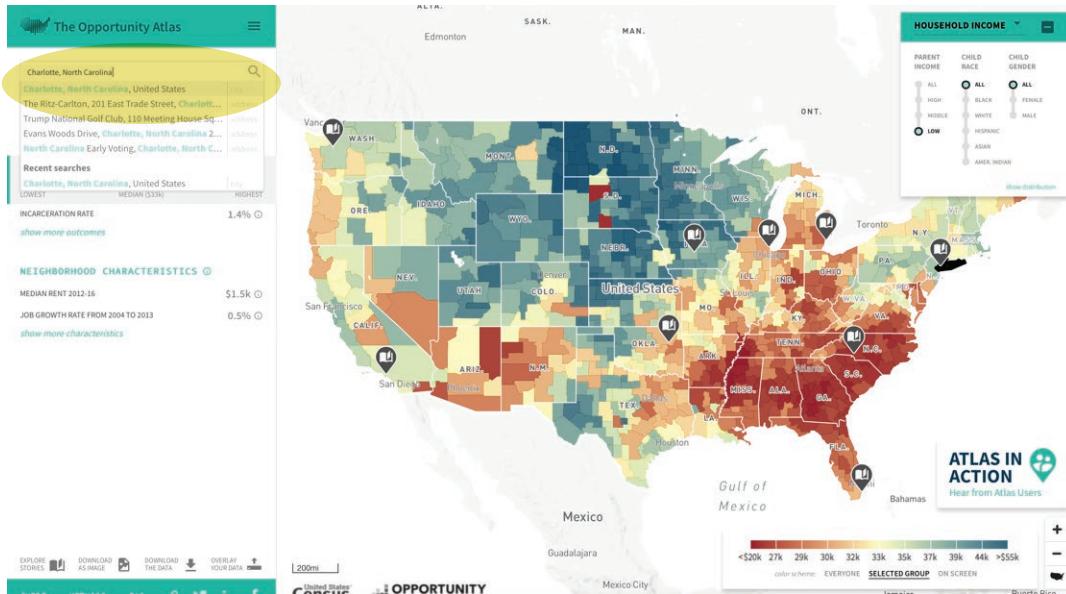
City 2: _____

Now, in The Opportunity Atlas, follow the steps on your worksheet for City 1. Once you are done with City 1, follow the same steps for City 2. Record the data you find in the table on your worksheet.

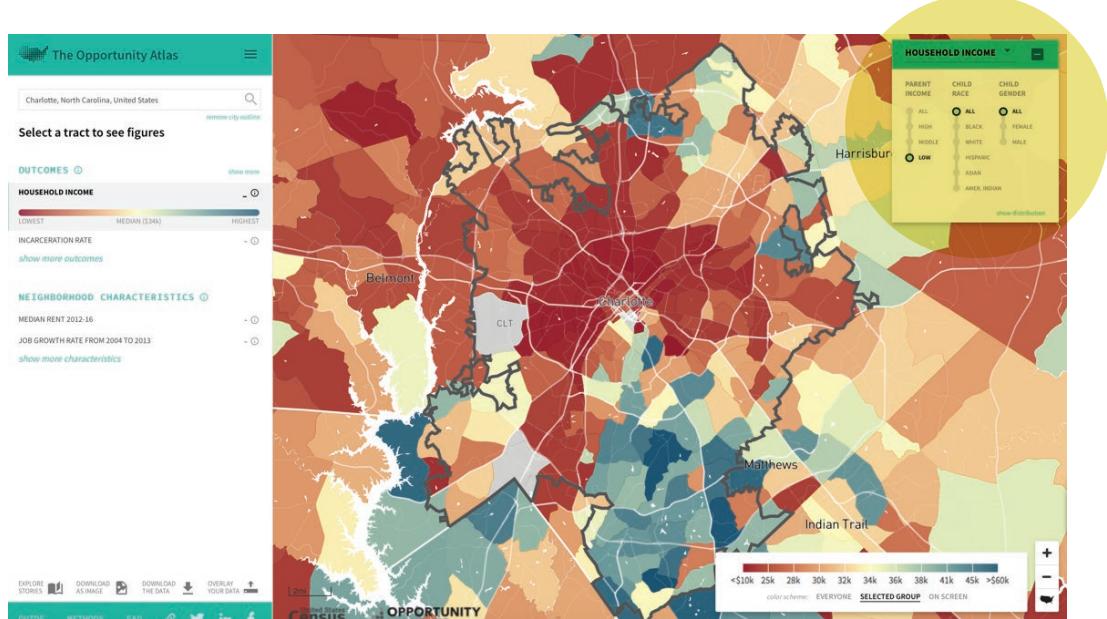
Note: Images on the following pages show Charlotte, North Carolina, as an example.

Exploration of City 1:

Step 1: Navigate to the online tool, click the button to “Begin Exploring,” then in the “search for address or place” box in the top left, type in the first city and state.



Step 2: Next, look at the box in the upper right hand corner of the screen and begin toggling the green dots between settings. Observe how opportunities change based on race and sex in City 1.





Step 3: In the upper right hand corner, make sure household income (*average annual household income in 2014-15*) is selected from the top drop-down menu, then select your own sex and race in your search. Scroll over the different neighborhoods on the screen in your selected city. Zoom in to one tract within City 1 and click on a tract you want to focus on. (Be sure to zoom in far enough so the data is shown by tract.) Record the name of that tract and record the data for household income on your student worksheet.

Step 4: Next, select employment rate from the drop-down menu with your own sex and race selected. Record the data for the same tract you chose within City 1 on your worksheet.

The screenshot shows the Neighborhood Data Explorer interface. At the top, it says "LOCKWOOD" and "EMPLOYMENT RATE". Below that, under "OUTCOMES", there is a list of metrics and their definitions. The "Employment Rate" metric is highlighted with a yellow oval. Under "NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS", there is a list of metrics and their definitions. The "Median Rent 2012-16" metric is also highlighted with a yellow oval.

OUTCOMES	Definition
Household Income	Average annual household income in 2014-15
Incarceration Rate	Fraction incarcerated on April 1, 2010
Teenage Birth Rate (women only)	Fraction of women who had a child between ages 13-19
Individual Income (Excluding Spouse)	Average annual individual income (excluding spouse) in 2014-15
Fraction Married	Fraction who were married in 2015
Spouse's Income	Average individual income for spouses
Employment Rate	Fraction who have positive earnings in 2015
High School Graduation Rate	Fraction with a high school degree or GED
College Graduation Rate	Fraction who hold a 4-year college degree
Hours Worked Per Week	Average hours worked per week
Hourly Wage (\$/hour)	Average hourly wage rate (\$/hour)
Frac. in Top 20% Based on Household Income	Fraction with household income in the top 20%
Frac. In Top 1% Based on Household Income	Fraction with household income in the top 1%
Frac. in Top 20% Based on Indiv. Income	Fraction with individual income in the top 20%
Frac. In Top 1% Based on Indiv. Income	Fraction with individual income in the top 1%
% Staying in Same Commuting Zone as Adults	Fraction who stayed in the same commuting zone as where they grew up
% Staying in Same Tract as Adults	Fraction who stayed in the same tract as where they grew up
Household Income (Stayed in Commuting Zone)	Average household income for children who stayed in the same commuting zone
Individual Income (Stayed in Commuting Zone)	Average individual income for children who stayed in the same commuting zone
Household Income for U.S. Natives	Household income for children with U.S. born mothers
Household Income for Immigrants	Household income for children with immigrant mothers
Individual Income for U.S. Natives	Individual income for children with U.S. born mothers
Individual Income for Immigrants	Individual income for children with immigrant mothers
Number of Children	Number of children below age 18 in 2000

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS	Definition
Median Rent 2012-16	Median rent in this area between 2012-16
Job Growth Rate from 2004 to 2013	Average annualized job growth rate from 2004 to 2013
Median Hhld. Income of Residents in 2012-16	Median household income in 2016
Median Hhld. Income of Residents in 1990	Median household income in 1990



	City 1: _____ Tract Selected: _____	City 2: _____ Tract Selected: _____
Household income (my sex and race)		
Employment rate (my sex and race)		

2. Make a Decision

Based on the data, is City 1 or City 2 the best location if you were moving from another country? Explain your answer, using information from each category you recorded above.

Home Extension

Take your student worksheet home and share your findings from class with an adult in your home. Ask them if they ever considered living in a different part of the state or country and how they decided to live in your neighborhood. Remind them that the 2020 Census is coming in March 2020 and ask who will be completing the census for your household.