

Lesson Title: *Going to Town: Where is that nearest Steakhouse?*

(pronounced locally as- Lo-re-ta)

Lesson Overview

Growing up in a small town in southern middle Tennessee, I did not know I was learning about threshold and range each time my family and I had to drive over 30 minutes to go out to eat at the nearest Quincy's Steakhouse*, home of the big fat yeast roll. It was obvious to me at the time and anyone living in Loretto for that matter, that Loretto was neither big enough nor rich enough to support a Quincy's Steakhouse, but Florence, Alabama, was. We called going to Florence "going to town," in fact we called it "going to town" when we went to any city big enough to have a McDonald's, Walmart, and a movie theater.

If someone is not from a small town, he or she may not know exactly what type of economic activities a small town, in the case of Loretto a town of 1,700 people, can support. Will the town have a police department? Will there be enough students for a primary or secondary school? Will there be a grocery store? These are the types of questions students will need to think about when completing the *Going to Town* lesson.

The main purpose of the lesson is to introduce the concepts of *threshold* and *range* and have students apply *threshold* and *range* to help determine the economic activities found in cities of various populations.

**Update: Quincy's Steakhouse is now a Japanese Steakhouse Restaurant.*

Time Required

45-55 minutes to complete all assessments including the examples.

Preparation Needed for the Teacher

a) Review the terms *threshold* and *range*.

b) View the Loretto, TN PowerPoint presentation from the website:

http://houstonhs.scsk12.org/~mrobinson/Mr._Robinsons_Web_Site_at_Houston_High_School/myhometown.html.

The presentation will help familiarize the teacher with the small Tennessee town, and it will help the teacher to describe the city of Loretto to their students.

National Geographic Standards

3) *How to Analyze the Spatial Organization of People, Places, and Environments on Earth's Surface*

11) *The Patterns and Networks of Economic Interdependence on Earth's Surface*

12) *The Processes, Patterns, and Functions of Human Settlement*

Connections to AP Human Geography Units

Unit VI. Industrialization and Economic Development- *Economic Services and their Locations*

Unit VII. Cities and Urban Land Use- *Central Place Theory's Threshold and Range*

Objective for the Lesson

Students will demonstrate understanding of threshold and range as it is applied to the location of a variety of services by matching the service with the correct city.

Key Questions for the Lesson

- a) What is threshold, and what is range?
- b) What is an example of a service with a large threshold and range? small threshold and range?
- c) What factors help if a city will have a specific service?
- d) What services will cities between 1,000 and 2,000 people almost always have? not have?

Introduction of the Lesson

At the beginning of the lesson have the students start thinking about the number of people needed for a location to have a specific service, i.e., police department, hospital, library, fast food restaurant, etc.

Possible Questions to use in the class discussion:

Where is the nearest police department?

Where is a location you have been that did not have a police department?

Where is the nearest McDonald's?

How many are within a 30 minute drive of our school?

Where is the nearest Super Walmart?

Where is the nearest gas station?

Instruction

Part 1- Introduce *threshold* and *range*.

Use Slide 1 to introduce, define, and explain threshold and range.

Threshold is the minimum market size (population) needed to support a central place function (service).

Range is the maximum distance people are willing to travel to obtain a central place function (service).

What types of services would have a small threshold and range? a large threshold and range?

Examples:

small threshold and range- convenience store or gas station

large threshold and range- Walmart or Hospital

Part 2- Brief Description of Loretto, Tennessee

Use Slide 2 to give the students a description of Loretto, Tennessee. Have the students answer the following questions concerning each of the photos:

a. *Loretto City Limits*- What has impacted the city boundaries of Loretto?

Possible Answer: The city limits are impacted by the highway going through the town.

b. *Google Map View of Loretto*- What is the landscape surrounding Loretto?

Possible Answer: Farmland and Forestry

c. *Highway US 43*- How does a multi-lane highway impact a city like Loretto?

Possible Answer: Since it a major north-south highway there is a high volume of traffic through the town. Travelers and commuters will need services such as gas stations.

d and e. *Downtown Loretto (two photos)*- How would you describe the downtown?

Possible Answer: Downtown Loretto has a few businesses, a museum, a library, and one three-way stop. To say it is quiet most of the time would be a bit of an understatement.

f. *Typical Homes in Loretto*- Would Loretto be described as a low, middle, or high income city?

Possible Answer: Loretto would be a middle income city.

Key Statistics for Loretto, TN from city-data.com

Population- 1,714 (2010)

Estimated median household income- \$40,971

Estimated median house or condo value- \$96,377

Median gross rent- \$541

Percentage of 25 years and over with a Bachelor and Graduate Degrees- 14.3%

Most common industry- 30% employed in manufacturing jobs

Part 3- Complete Introductory Example 1 and Example 2 (optional)

Use Slide 3 to have students determine where people in Loretto, Tennessee, would have to travel for each of the following services:

Services:

1. Lowe's Home Improvement
2. NAPA Auto Parts Supplier
3. Greek Orthodox Church
4. Pizza Hut
5. Russell Stover Candies Store
6. Southeastern Conference (SEC) University

There will be one answer (service) for each of the cities listed on Slide 3: Loretto, Lawrenceburg, Florence, Athens, Huntsville, and Nashville.

Have the students apply threshold and range to help them determine each answer. Also, point out that cities like Nashville and Huntsville will have several Pizza Huts, but the question is where is the nearest Pizza Hut to Loretto, TN. Would Loretto have a large enough population for a Pizza Hut? Would Lawrenceburg be large enough for a Pizza Hut?

Answers for Introductory Example 1

1. Lowe's Home Improvement- **Florence, AL**
2. NAPA Auto Parts Supplier- **Loretto, TN**
3. Greek Orthodox Church- **Huntsville, AL**
4. Pizza Hut- **Lawrenceburg, TN**
5. Russell Stover Candies Store- **Athens, AL**

6. Southeastern Conference (SEC) University- **Nashville, TN**

Practice Assessment Activity #2

Use Slide 4 to have students determine where people in Loretto, Tennessee, would have to travel for each of the following services:

Services:

1. Apple Store
2. Hampton Inn
3. High School
4. Home Depot
5. Taco Bell
6. Porsche Dealership

There will be one answer (service) for each of the cities listed on Slide 3: Loretto, Lawrenceburg, Florence, Athens, Huntsville, and Nashville.

Answers for Introductory Example 2

1. Apple Store- **Huntsville, AL**
2. Hampton Inn- **Athens, AL**
3. High School- **Loretto, TN**
4. Home Depot- **Florence, AL**
5. Taco Bell- **Lawrenceburg, TN**
6. Porsche Dealership- **Nashville, TN**

Part 4- Main Group Activity

Divide the students in groups of 3-5 students and have them complete Slide 5. Students will need 8-12 minutes to complete Slide 5.

Answers

Loretto (5)- Bank, Fred's Discount Store, Funeral Home, Grocery Store, Sonic

Lawrenceburg (6)- Hospital, Hotel, McDonald's, Sears, Tractor & Supply Co., Walmart

Florence (2)- Best Buy, Indoor Shopping Center

Athens (1)- Starbucks

Huntsville (4)- International Airport, Korean Restaurant, Mosque, Ruth's Chris Restaurant

Nashville (2)- Cancer Research Center, Pro Football Game

Conclusion / Notes for Answers

Use the notes and expectations listed below to conclude the lesson.

1. **Bank**- The majority of people are in need of a bank, and the banks in Loretto are used by many of the people living in the entire southern part of Lawrence County.
2. **Best Buy**- The electronics, computers, and appliances purchased at Best Buy are not items most people purchase everyday. Lawrenceburg does not have enough population to sustain a Best Buy, and the people in Lawrenceburg, Loretto, and the surround areas would go to Florence to the Best Buy.
3. **Cancer Research Center**- There are cancer centers closer to Loretto than the ones in Nashville. The key word in this example is "research." Cancer research is more likely to take place in a major metropolitan area like Nashville.
4. **Fred's Discount Store**- Fred's carries everyday items people want and need, and it is also a discount store like Walmart. However, unlike Walmart, Fred's tend to be smaller stores and service smaller areas like Loretto and southern Lawrence County.
5. **Funeral Home**- There is only one funeral home in Loretto, and it provides this service for the entire southern part of the county. There would not be enough people in the area to support a second funeral home.
6. **Grocery Store**- The grocery store is not large like a Kroger, but it has all the basics from fruits and vegetables to fresh meats and frozen foods. There is now only one grocery store for Loretto and the entire southern part of Lawrence County.
7. **Hospital**- Loretto had a doctor's office for many years, but when the doctor died there was no other doctor who moved into the hospital to take his place. In the most recent years the hospital has been turned into apartments. Lawrenceburg's hospital services everyone in the county. Loretto is not profitable enough to sustain a hospital.
8. **Hotel**- Lawrenceburg is large enough for a few hotels, and it also has a state park as a tourist destination.
9. **Indoor Shopping Mall**- If someone in Loretto says, "I am going to the mall," then they are talking about Regency Square Mall located in Florence which is large enough for a large indoor shopping mall. Lawrenceburg is not large enough to sustain the large number of stores found in an indoor shopping mall.
10. **International Airport**- Nashville would have the largest number of international flights, but there are a few international flights that leave out of Huntsville, i.e., flights to Mexico. Also, Huntsville's airport does a lot of cargo transport to Europe and Mexico.
11. **Korean Restaurant**- Huntsville is large enough to have a more diverse population, and with the diversity they have more ethnic restaurants.
12. **McDonald's**- There are enough people in Lawrenceburg and Lawrence County to support a McDonald's. It is affordable fast food, and it very well known and popular.
13. **Mosque**- Muslims in America typically live in large urban areas. There are enough Muslims in the Huntsville metropolitan area to support a mosque.
14. **Pro Football Game**- Most pro football cities need a metropolitan area with over 1 million people. With tickets being expensive and the football stadium being large, Nashville is the only city with enough people in the surrounding areas to support the football team.
15. **Ruth's Chris Restaurant**- This is an upscale expensive restaurant, and for it to remain open there must be enough people in the area with a high enough income to where they will eat at the restaurant. Huntsville and Nashville have enough people to support such a restaurant.
16. **Sears**- The items bought at Sears are very much like the items bought at Best Buy. Sears is a much older company, and it was common to have a smaller Sears store in cities like Lawrenceburg. The appliances available at Sears would be considered necessities for most people.

17. **Sonic**- Prior to the 2000's there would not have been any fast food restaurants in Loretto, but with the completion of a four lane highway Loretto became more of a city along commuter routes. Thus, it is an ideal location for a drive-in fast food restaurant like Sonic.

18. **Starbucks**- Nashville has over twenty Starbucks, and Huntsville has several as well. With Interstate 65 and US HWY 72 going through Athens, it is an ideal location for a Starbucks. The Starbucks is conveniently located near the intersection of these two major highways.

19. **Tractor & Supply Co.**- Lawrenceburg and the surround areas has a lot of farm land, and the Tractor & Supply Co. is located there because of the need.

20. **Walmart**- Lawrenceburg is large enough for the discount giant. People from neighboring counties would also come to Lawrenceburg to go to the Walmart.

Expectations to Student Performance on the Main Group Activity

Do not expect the students to give all of the correct answers. The group activity is designed to engage students in applying threshold and range and give sound rationales for each of their answers. Consider the following rubric as a guide for evaluation:

Number Correct	Evaluation
17-20	Outstanding
13-16	Excellent
9-12	Good
5-8	Fair
0-4	Poor

My Mother's Results

My mother has lived in Loretto since 1958, and when she completed this activity she did not get 100%. She missed two answers. She was unaware of what Ruth's Chris was, and she has never eaten Korean food. I did not give her any hints as to the answers to the activity.

References

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