Unit 7: Challenges of a New Century (1898-1929)

[Topic 5: Difficulties of Urban Life: The Great Baltimore Fire](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=07&topic=05)

Source 5, “Report of the Citizens Relief Committee”

This report tells how people reacted to the Great Baltimore Fire.

The fire departments of our neighboring cities responded promptly to our calls, and the thanks of Baltimore are due to them, especially to the magnificent efforts of the New York firemen.

The fire was hardly at an end when money and tenders of help poured in from all parts of the United States and elsewhere. The late Hon. Robert M. McLane , then Mayor of Baltimore, with rare foresight determined that Baltimore and Maryland could well take care of its own sufferers.

Fortunately, few homes had been destroyed, although many were thrown out of employment and deprived of their usual means of livelihood.

**Emerging ESOL / Reader**

Unit 7: Challenges of a New Century (1898-1929)

[Topic 5: Difficulties of Urban Life: The Great Baltimore Fire](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=07&topic=05)

Source 5, “Report of the Citizens Relief Committee”

This report tells how people reacted to the Great Baltimore Fire.

Cities around us sent help fast. Everyone in Baltimore must thank them. Most of our thanks are for the strong firemen from New York.

1. Who sent help to Baltimore?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sent help to Baltimore.

2. Who do you think helped the most? Tell why.

I think the firemen from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ helped the most because

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Why did Baltimore need so much help with the fire?

Baltimore needed so much help with the fire because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Intermediate ESOL / Reader**

Unit 7: Challenges of a New Century (1898-1929)

[Topic 5: Difficulties of Urban Life: The Great Baltimore Fire](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=07&topic=05)

Source 5, “Report of the Citizens Relief Committee”

This report tells how people reacted to the Great Baltimore Fire.

Nearby cities quickly sent help. Everyone in Baltimore must thank them. The firemen from New York were the most helpful and brave.

As soon as the fire was out, people started to send us money. People from all over offered to help. The mayor, Robert McLane, does not usually plan very well but this time he did the right thing. He said that we did not need help. He said that Baltimore could take care of its own people who were hurt.

1. Who wanted to help the people of Baltimore?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wanted to help the people of Baltimore.

1. What did the writer say that shows he didn’t like the mayor?

The writer said that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Do you think the mayor was right not to let people help Baltimore? Explain.

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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Advanced ESOL / Reader

Unit 7: Challenges of a New Century (1898-1929)

[Topic 5: Difficulties of Urban Life: The Great Baltimore Fire](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=07&topic=05)

Source 5, “Report of the Citizens Relief Committee”

This report tells how people reacted to the Great Baltimore Fire.

Vocabulary

* elsewhere – other places
* means of livelihood – way of making money/job

The fire departments of our neighboring cities immediately answered our calls for help. The thanks of Baltimore go to them, especially to the magnificent work of the New York firemen.

The fire had just ended when money and offers of help poured in from all parts of the United States and elsewhere. The Honorable Robert M. McLane, the Mayor of Baltimore, with unusual planning, decided that Baltimore and Maryland could easily take care of its own suffering people.

Fortunately, few homes were destroyed. But because so many office buildings burned down, many people were unemployed, and lost their usual means of livelihood.

1. Write a sentence that tells two ways other cities wanted to help Baltimore.

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1. What words or phrases did the writer use to help you understand how people acted during and after the fire?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What would be a huge problem for many people in Baltimore after the fire?

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

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| **BONUS** – Pretend you were in Baltimore during the fire. Write or draw something that shows your thanks to the people who helped your city. |