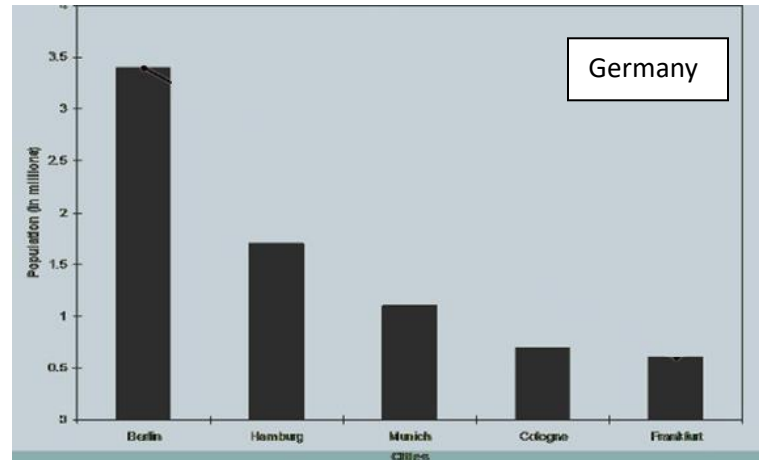


Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Primate City/Rank Size Activity

Most developed countries (although not all) follow the rank size rule. The population distribution of that country is concentrated on one major area (city). As a result, there is one very large city in that country that is at least twice the size of the next largest city. This very large city is referred to as the **Primate City**. The **Rank Size Rule** dictates that the population of the second ranking city is one half of the largest city. The third largest city is one third of the largest city. In the example below, Germany's primate city would be Berlin. With a population of 3.4 million, it is double the size of the second ranked city of Hamburg, which has a population of 1.6 million. By looking at the graph, you can observe the convex (downward trend) in the population size of cities within Germany.



Rank	City	Population (Millions)
1	Berlin	3.4
2	Hamburg	1.6
3	Munich	1.2
4	Cologne	0.9
5	Frankfurt	0.8

Argentina Brazil Cameroon Canada China Egypt	Finland Kenya Kuwait Madagascar Malaysia Mongolia	Nigeria Russia South Africa Sudan Tanzania Turkey
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1. Pick four (4) countries from the list above and use the link to complete the questions in the table below.

<http://population.mongabay.com/>

Name of Country	1 st Ranked City (Most Populated)	2 nd Ranked City	Primate City? Yes or No	Convex? (downward curve)?	Rank Size Rule?	Is largest city the capital City?	Is largest city a megacity?
<i>Germany</i>	<i>Berlin 3.4 Million</i>	<i>Hamburg 1.6 Million</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Positive effects of a primate city within a country

- Lots of economic opportunities
- Large market (pop.) for goods and services
- Ability to offer high-end goods and services (including education) because of larger threshold population
- Advantages of centralized transportation and communication network
- Global trade opportunities; primate cities can compete on a global scale and attract foreign investment

Negative effects of primate city on a country

- Unequal distribution of investments deters national economic development
- Unequal economic and/or resource development
- Unequal distribution of wealth and/or power
- Transportation network (hub and spoke) prevents equal accessibility to all regions
- Impact of centrifugal forces and difficulties of political cohesion on economic development
- Brain drain – migration and unequal distribution of education, entrepreneurship, opportunities
- Disproportionate effect of disaster in the primate city on the entire country
- Negative externalities, e.g., unsustainable urban growth/slums/environmental impacts if these are related to economic development, e.g., burden on national economy to cope with problems

2. Review the list above and explain the **positive** effects of a primate city on the economy of a country.

3. Review the list above and explain the **negative** effects of a primate city on the economy of a country.