

## Read the story and answer the questions.

San Francisco, oh San Francisco! What a city you are! A bellwether city! A city of contradictions and complexities, where the hustle and bustle of the tech industry rubs shoulders with the pain of gentrification and homelessness. You have seen it all, from the dotcom boom in the late 90s to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your downtown may be 45% empty, but surely, you will rise above it all, with your head held high, ready to face the future with a renewed sense of purpose.



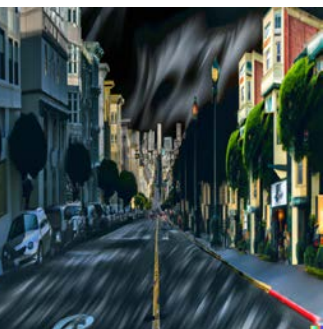
Ah San Francisco, what a tale you have to tell! The city that was once just a dot on the map is now a hub of technology, a shining beacon in the world of innovation. But with great success, comes great challenges. And oh, how San Francisco has been struggling to bring its people back to the office. The downtown area is seemingly abandoned. But why, you may ask? Well, my friend, it's a story that dates back to the late 1990s, when the dotcom boom hit and tech companies started flocking to the city's downtown. Then, San Francisco took a bold bet on tech during the Great Recession. It changed its tax structure and built open floor plans that tech companies favor. And that bet paid off, with tech businesses pouring into the city.

And let's talk about that tech boom, shall we? It brought with it the likes of Twitter, Salesforce.com, Uber, Airbnb, and Yelp, who all moved their headquarters to the city, bringing in young and well-paid workers. And what a blessing it was! These workers earned their keep in the tall office buildings. They spent their money in the streets below, supporting retail and other businesses, creating a virtuous economic cycle. San Francisco's success in luring tech became a model for other cities to follow. But, it also brought its own set of problems - high rents, gentrification, and increased homelessness. Critics feared that San Francisco was too reliant on tech, and if the city were to lose its grip on the industry, it would suffer greatly. And then came the COVID-19 pandemic, sending workers home and leading to a decrease in the city's population.



The city of San Francisco was transformed in the wake of the pandemic. The winds of change swept through its streets like a tempest. The tech giants of the city, ever-forward-looking, were among the first to embrace remote work. Soon, the downtown offices were emptied of their workers. Yelp, that beacon of innovation, relinquished its headquarters and set out to hire remote employees from every corner of the land. This change in the way of working cast a long shadow, touching the lives of those in the hospitality and services industries, who had come to rely upon the presence of the tech workers. They lost their livelihoods, and some found themselves wandering in search of new opportunities. Many found work with restaurants and food chains expanding to the suburbs. In these areas, a new breed of tech worker was emerging, seeking the same comforts of city life closer to their homes. But these food sector workers discovered they had to make long daily commutes, which took them to some of the most expensive corners of the country. These were places they could not hope to afford a place to live. The city was changed, and with it, the lives of those who called it home.

But San Francisco, my friend, is a city that never gives up. It's time to face the challenges head-on and emerge even stronger. Cities have a tendency to recover from crisis and San Francisco has the potential to do the same. With the right policies and investments in housing and transit, San Francisco can not only survive, but thrive in the future. Italo Calvin wrote, "cities are like dreams, and are made of desires and fears". San Francisco is a city of dreams and desires, and it's up to its residents and leaders to work together to make those dreams a reality. The future of San Francisco is in their hands, and it's up to them to determine if it will be a city of prosperity and opportunity, or a city of decline and despair.



**Multiple choice comprehension.**

<p>1. San Francisco is a city of _____ and complexities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) beauty</li><li>b) contradictions</li><li>c) simplicity</li><li>d) luxury</li></ul> <p>2. San Francisco's downtown area stands at a mere _____ occupancy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) 35%</li><li>b) 40%</li><li>c) 45%</li><li>d) 50%</li></ul> <p>3. San Francisco became a model for other cities to follow, but it also brought with it its own set of problems such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) high rents, gentrification, and increased homelessness.</li><li>b) low rents, urbanization, and low cost of living.</li><li>c) low-income disparity, high job opportunities, and ample affordable housing.</li><li>d) all of the above.</li></ul>	<p>4. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a decrease in the city's _____.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) economy</li><li>b) population</li><li>c) tourism</li><li>d) tech industry</li></ul> <p>5. The current situation provides an opportunity for the city to address these issues and make it a more _____ place to live and work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) expensive</li><li>b) luxurious</li><li>c) exclusive</li><li>d) affordable</li></ul>
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**Match the words and meanings.**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. gentrification</li><li>2. tech industry</li><li>3. dotcom boom</li><li>4. occupancy</li><li>5. virtuous</li><li>6. tempest</li><li>7. suburbs</li><li>8. commutes</li><li>9. crisis</li><li>10. despair</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) a time of extreme difficulty</li><li>b) a feeling of hopelessness</li><li>c) the process of making a place more attractive to wealthier people by improving the buildings and services</li><li>d) a period of rapid growth in the use of the internet for business and commerce</li><li>e) the percentage of buildings being lived in or used for business</li><li>f) the state of being morally good</li><li>g) a sudden, violent, and noisy storm</li><li>h) the technology sector, consisting of companies that create or use technology to solve problems or provide services</li><li>i) the journey between one's home and place of work</li><li>j) an area outside the central part of a city, typically a residential area</li></ul>
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**Answer the questions with your own ideas.**

- 1. What are some of the challenges San Francisco has faced in recent years?  
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- 2. How has the tech industry affected San Francisco?  
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- 3. What happened to the downtown area during the COVID-19 pandemic?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. What are some ways San Francisco can recover from the pandemic and its economic effects?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5. What does the future of San Francisco depend on?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Gap fill answers**

1b, 2c, 3a, 4b, 5d

**Match the words/ meanings answers:**

1c, 2h, 3d, 4e, 5f, 6g, 7j, 8i, 9a, 10b

**Possible answers to the discussion questions.**

1. San Francisco has faced challenges such as high rent prices, gentrification, and increased homelessness. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a decrease in the city's population and a decrease in the occupancy of downtown businesses.
2. The tech industry has brought both benefits and challenges to San Francisco. On one hand, it has brought in young and well-paid workers who support retail and other businesses in the city. On the other hand, it has caused high rents, gentrification, and increased homelessness.
3. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many workers began working remotely, leading to a decrease in the occupancy of downtown offices. Some companies, like Yelp, have even given up their headquarters and begun hiring remote workers from all over the country.
4. San Francisco can recover from the pandemic and its economic effects by investing in affordable housing and transit, as well as addressing the challenges that have faced the city in recent years. By making the city more attractive to live and work in, San Francisco can thrive in the future.
5. The future of San Francisco depends on the residents and leaders of the city working together to address the challenges it faces and create a more prosperous and inclusive city. With the right policies and investments, San Francisco can become a city of opportunity and growth.