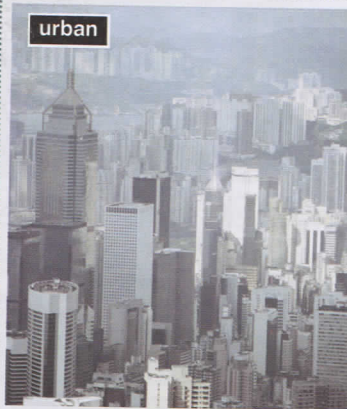


The Effects of Urbanization around the Globe

In the last 100 years, rural areas have shrunk. Urban ones have grown at a steady rate. In 1900, about 13% of the world's population lived in urban areas. In 2005, that rate was 49%. This report will examine the advantages and disadvantages of urbanization.

Developed countries often see the most immediate benefits of urbanization. People in these countries have better access to universities and cultural activities. Health care facilities are more widely available. There are economic benefits, too. Industries like technology and banking are often centered in urban areas. These industries bring jobs and commerce.

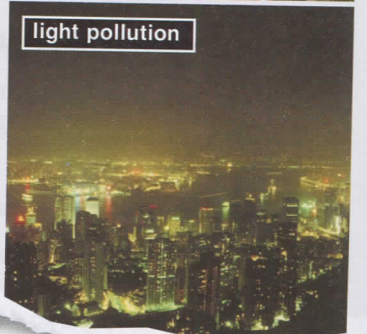
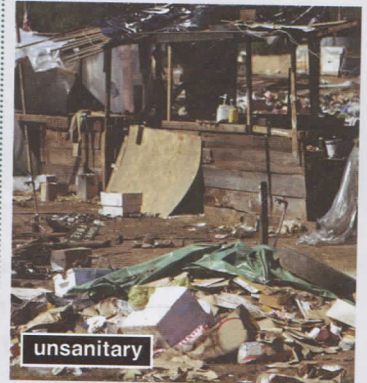
Despite the opportunities in urban areas, there are major drawbacks. Poverty abounds in urban areas, particularly in developing nations. As people migrate from rural areas, they face overcrowded and



unsanitary conditions. People live in slums. They have little to no access to amenities like water and electricity. Crime rates are high, and there are few jobs. Developed countries experience these effects, but

to a lesser extent.

Environmental problems affect all urban areas. Urban sprawl takes over open spaces. This reduces access to natural resources. In addition, many cities become urban heat islands. They can be anywhere from 2° to 10°F hotter than less developed areas. Light and noise pollution also greatly affect quality of life.



Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What are some problems in urban areas of developing countries?
- 2 What form of pollution affects big cities in developed countries?

Reading

2 Read the article. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ___ Today, nearly half of the world's population live in urban areas.
- 2 ___ According to the passage, unsanitary conditions in urban areas force people to migrate to rural areas.
- 3 ___ Rural areas tend to be cooler than urban areas.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-7) with the definitions (A-G).

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 ___ urban | 5 ___ urban sprawl |
| 2 ___ overcrowding | 6 ___ light pollution |
| 3 ___ urbanization | 7 ___ urban heat island |
| 4 ___ open space | |

- A the expansion of a city into rural areas
- B an area without any buildings or other developments
- C related to or part of a city
- D an area that is hotter than places around it
- E having too many people
- F an excessive amount of light from sources like buildings and streetlights
- G the process of an area becoming bigger because of a population increase

- 4 Fill in the blanks with the correct words and phrases from the word bank.

Word BANK

migrate poverty noise pollution
unsanitary developed countries rural

- The house is in a(n) _____ area where there aren't many people.
 - The birds _____ from the north to the south every winter.
 - Inspectors closed the restaurant because its kitchen was very _____.
 - People living in _____ cannot afford necessities like food and clothing.
 - The sounds from traffic produce a lot of _____.
 - Most countries in Europe are considered _____.
- 5 Listen and read the article again. What is a major cause of overcrowding in urban areas?

Listening

- 6 Listen to a conversation between two scientists. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- ___ The woman was surprised by the lack of noise pollution.
- ___ The speakers' city is experiencing urban sprawl.
- ___ Urban sprawl leads to less driving.

- 7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Scientist 1: I've heard the 1 _____ there is horrible.

Scientist 2: Yeah, but that's not the only kind. There's garbage in the streets. And it is so loud. 2 _____ is a huge problem there. I'm glad our cities aren't like that.

Scientist 1: Yes, but 3 _____, our urban areas have their share of problems.

Scientist 2: I suppose 4 _____.

Scientist 1: I'm sure, unemployment is 5 _____ in most urban areas around here.

Scientist 2: Yes, I remember reading that. It's going to bring 6 _____ to those areas.



overcrowding

Speaking

- 8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

How was your trip?

You can see the effects of ...

Remember ...

Student A: You are a scientist. Talk to Student B about:

- your recent trip to a developing urban area
- what conditions were like in that area
- the effects of those conditions

Student B: You are a scientist. Talk to Student A about the problems in urban areas of your country.

Writing

- 9 Use the article and the conversation from Task 8 to write an email to a colleague about a trip to an urban area in a foreign country. Include: a description of the city, the good aspects of this place, and the problems you saw there.