

LESSON 2 Benefits of cities: investigating an urban sense of place		
Teaching activities	Learning outcomes	Resources
<p>Starter</p> <p><i>The fastest phase of urban growth in human history</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief look at the unprecedented rate and scale of urban growth now underway globally. • Investigating the top ten megacities and their scale. <p>Main activity</p> <p>(1) <i>Is city living good for us?</i></p> <p>A series of propositions are explored in order to work out whether urban living is good for (i) individuals and (ii) society as a whole. It can also be argued that the environment suffers less when people are concentrated in cities, as this lowers their average ecological and carbon footprint.</p> <p>(2) <i>Global urban futures</i></p> <p>Enormous challenges lie ahead. Every week, over one million people move to cities globally. The world's largest mega-region, Hong Kong-Shenzhen-Guangzhou, China, is already home to about 120 million people. How can we house an additional two billion urban dwellers by 2050 while also doing our best to make sure people have a positive sense of place of where they live? This part of the lesson examines broad regional trends in urban growth and highlights interesting areas of innovation, such as smart cities and eco-cities, that aim to maximise quality of life for citizens.</p> <p>Plenary</p> <p><i>Making the most of urban living</i></p> <p>Students are invited to suggest what they think the priorities should be for new urban development in the UK and other countries - and how to generate a positive urban 'sense of place'.</p>	<p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • think critically about what is meant by a 'sense of place' in relation to urban areas, and consider the diverse arguments in favour of urban living • investigate contemporary urban trends and the broad similarities and differences between different world regions • examine new subject-specific urban terminology • reflect on their personal experiences of, or views about, urban living 	<p><i>This lesson is fully supported with the following resources:</i></p> <p>(1) A PowerPoint presentation covering the main themes covered by this lesson</p> <p>(2) Lecture given by author and historian Leo Hollis: http://www.21stcenturychallenges.org/challenges/escape-to-the-city/media-gallery/video/leo-hollis/</p> <p><i>External links</i></p> <p>Liveable cities infographic: http://www.21stcenturychallenges.org/60-seconds/infographic-liveable-cities/ http://resourcesfutures.org/#!/introduction</p> <p>Geography in the News 'Beyond megacities': http://www.geographyinthenews.rgs.org/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fmember%2fnewscasestudies%2farticle%2fdefault.aspx%3fid%3d1400&id=1400</p>