

A | Building Vocabulary. Find the words in **blue** in the reading passage on pages 51–53. Use the context to guess their meanings. Then match the sentence parts below to make definitions.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ____ An aspect of something is 2. ____ A decade is 3. ____ If a person or thing enables you to do something, 4. ____ To exceed a particular amount 5. ____ If you focus on a particular topic, 6. ____ A person's income is 7. ____ If something is inevitable, 8. ____ The infrastructure of a country is 9. ____ An institute is 10. ____ If a government invests money in an organization, | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. an organization or building where a particular type of work is done, especially research and teaching. b. it is certain to happen and cannot be prevented or avoided. c. it provides money to help it grow. d. one of the parts of its character or nature e. its basic facilities, such as transportation, communications, power supplies, and buildings. f. a period of ten years. g. is to be greater than that amount. h. the money that he or she earns or receives i. you concentrate on it and deal with it. j. it makes it possible for you to do it. |
|---|---|

Word Partners

Use **income** with: (*adj.*) **average** income, **large/small** income, **steady** income, **taxable** income; (*v.*) **earn** an income, **supplement** your income; (*n.*) **loss** of income, **source** of income

B | Using Vocabulary. Answer the questions. Share your ideas with a partner.

1. What are your plans for the next **decade**? Will you live in the same area? What kind of work do you plan to do? How do you plan to earn an **income**?
2. Which problems in your city do you think people should **focus** on right now?
3. What changes in technology do you think are **inevitable** over the next decade?

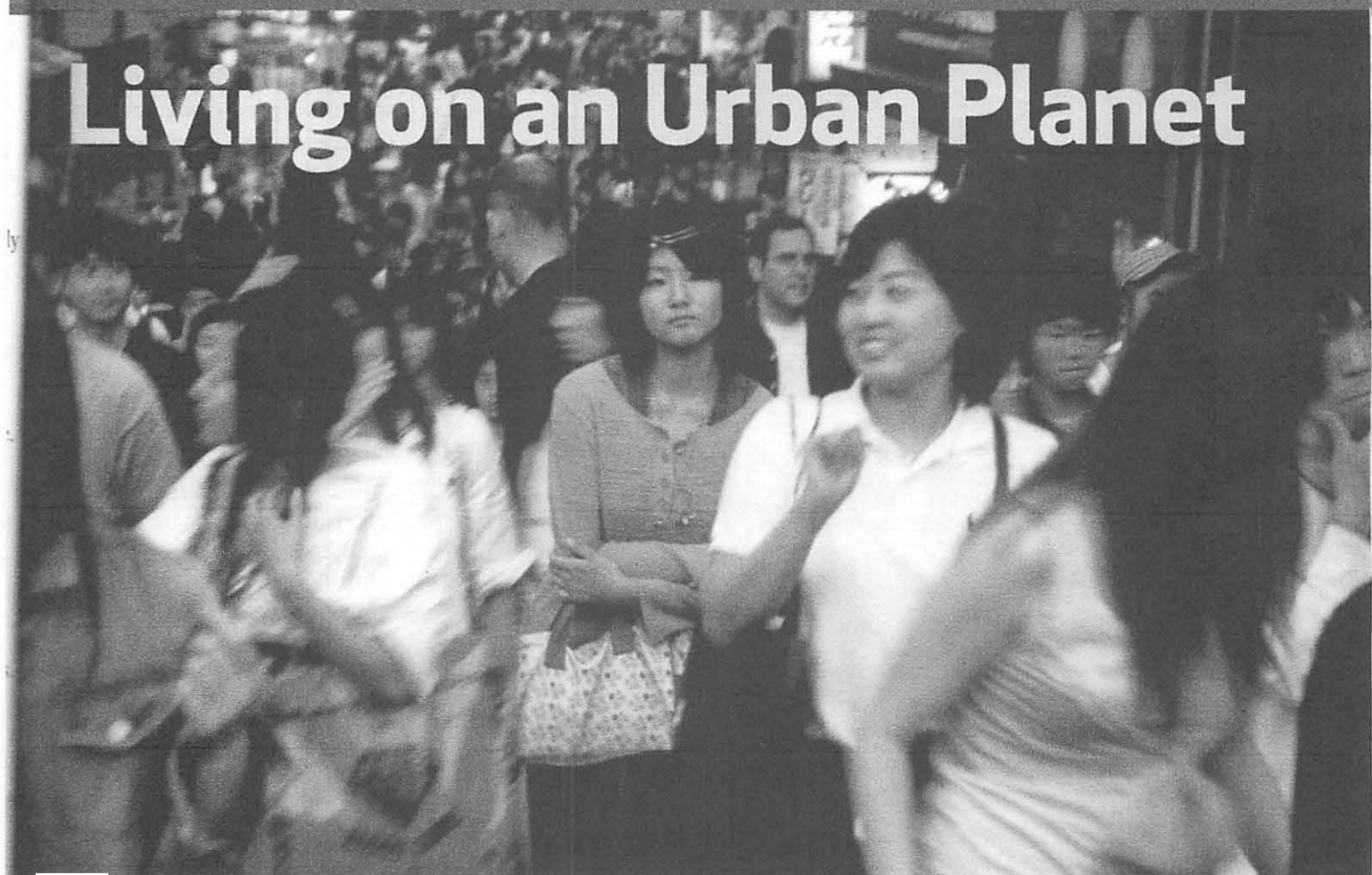
C | Brainstorming. Discuss your answers to these questions, in small groups.

What are some advantages to living in cities? What are some disadvantages?

D | Predicting. Skim the reading passage on pages 51–53. Read the title, the headings, and the first and last sentences of each paragraph. What is the reading passage mainly about? Complete the sentence below. As you read, check your prediction.

I think the reading is about the **positive/negative** aspects of living in cities and ways to manage _____ in cities in the future.

Living on an Urban Planet



▲ People crowd a narrow street lined with shops in Harajuku, Tokyo.

CONSIDER THIS: In 1800, less than three percent of the world's population lived in cities. Only one city—Beijing, China—had a population of more than a million people. Most people lived in rural areas, and many spent their entire lives without ever seeing a city. In 1900, just a hundred years later, roughly 150 million people lived in cities. By then, the world's ten largest urban areas all had populations exceeding one million; London—the world's largest—had more than six million people. By 2000, the number of people living in cities had exceeded three billion; and, in 2008, the world's population crossed a tipping point¹—more than one-half of the people on Earth lived in cities. By 2050, that could increase to more than two-thirds. The trend is clear and the conclusion inescapable—humans have become an urban species.

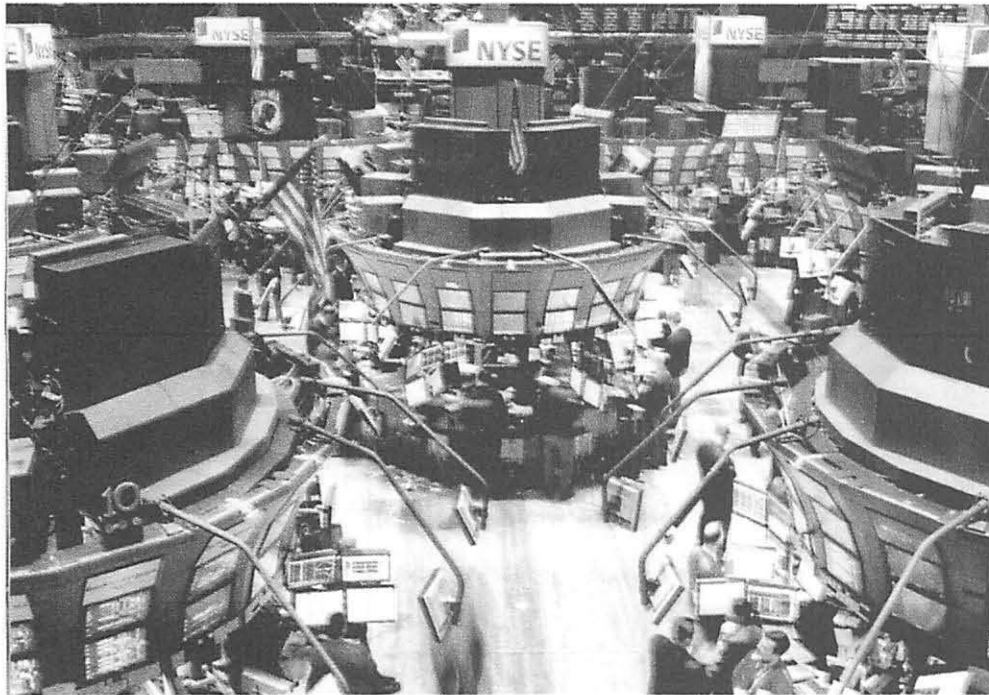
¹ A **tipping point** is a point in time when a very important change occurs.

² **Breeding grounds** are places that encourage the growth and development of certain conditions.

Cities as Solutions

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, as large urban areas began to grow and spread, many people viewed cities largely in negative terms—as crowded, dirty, unhealthy environments that were breeding grounds² for disease and crime. People feared that as cities got bigger, living conditions would get worse. Recent decades, however, have seen a widespread change in attitude toward urbanization. To a growing number of economists, urban planners, and environmentalists, urbanization is good news. Though negative aspects such as pollution and urban slums remain serious problems, many planners now believe big cities offer a solution to dealing with the problem of Earth's growing population.

Harvard economist Edward Glaeser is one person who believes that cities bring largely positive benefits. Glaeser's optimism is reflected in the title of his book *The Triumph of the City*. Glaeser argues that poor



people flock to cities because that's usually where the money is. Cities are productive because of "the absence of space between people," which reduces the cost of transporting goods, people, and ideas. While the flow of goods has always been important to cities, what is most important today is the flow of ideas. Successful cities attract and reward smart people with higher wages, and they enable people to learn from one another. According to Glaeser, a perfect example of how information can be exchanged in an urban environment is the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street (pictured above). There, employees work in one open, crowded space sharing information. "They value knowledge over space. That's what the modern city is all about."

Another champion³ of urbanization is environmentalist Stewart Brand. From an ecological perspective,⁴ says Brand, moving people out of cities would be disastrous. Because cities are dense, they allow half of the world's population to live on about four percent of the land, leaving more space for open country, such as farmland. People living in cities also have less impact per capita⁵ on the environment. Their roads, sewers,⁶ and power lines are shorter and require fewer resources to build and operate. City apartments require less energy to heat, cool, and light than larger houses in suburbs

and rural areas. Most importantly, people living in dense cities drive less. They can walk to many destinations, and public transportation is practical because enough people travel regularly to the same places. As a result, dense cities tend to produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions per person than scattered, sprawling⁷ suburbs.

Because of these reasons, it is a mistake to see urbanization as evil; instead, we should view it as an inevitable part of development, says David Satterwaite of London's International Institute of Environment and Development. For Satterwaite and other urban planners, rapid growth itself is not the real problem—the larger issue is how to manage the

growth. There is no one model for how to manage rapid urbanization, but there are hopeful examples. One is Seoul, South Korea.

Seoul's Success Story

Between 1960 and 2000, Seoul's population increased from fewer than three million to ten million people. In the same period, South Korea went from being one of the world's poorest countries, with a per capita GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of less than \$100, to being richer than some countries in Europe. How could this rapid urbanization produce such

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS PER PERSON
Tons of CO₂ equivalent;
Sample years 1994–2007



▲ **City-Country Gap:** In most cases, large, dense cities tend to emit less CO₂ per person than their national average.

economic growth? Large numbers of people first began arriving in Seoul in the 1950s. The government soon recognized that economic development was essential for supporting its growing urban population. It began to invest capital⁸ in South Korean companies that made products that foreigners wanted to buy—at first, inexpensive clothing and later, steel, electronics, and cars. This investment eventually helped large, modern corporations such as Samsung and Hyundai to grow and develop. Central to South Korea's economic success were the men and women pouring into Seoul to work in its new factories. “You can't understand urbanization in isolation from economic development,” says economist Kyung-Hwan Kim of Sogang University. The expanding city enabled economic growth, which paid for the buildings, roads, and other infrastructure that helped the city absorb even more people.

Seoul today is one of the densest cities in the world. It has millions of cars, but it also has an excellent subway system. Overall, life has gotten much better for South Koreans during the past few decades of rapid urbanization. Life expectancy has increased from 51 years in 1961 to 79 years today. South Korea's transformation into a country with great economic power cannot be easily copied, but it proves that a poor country can urbanize successfully and incredibly fast.

Managing Urbanization

Despite success stories such as Seoul, urban planners around the world continue to struggle with the problem of how to manage urbanization. While they used to worry mainly about city density—the

large number of people living closely together—urban planners today are increasingly focusing on urban sprawl—the way big cities are spreading out and taking over more and more land.

Shlomo Angel, an urban planning professor at New York University and Princeton University, sees two main reasons for urban sprawl—rising incomes and cheaper transportation. “When income rises, people have money to buy more space,” he says. With cheaper transportation, people can afford to travel longer distances to work. In the second half of the 20th century, for example, many people in the United States moved from apartments in cities to houses in suburban areas, where they depend more on cars for transportation. This trend has led to expanding suburbs, which has led to greater energy use as well as increased air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Today, many planners want to bring people back to cities and make suburbs denser by creating walkable town centers, high-rise apartment buildings, and more public transportation so people are less dependent on cars. “It would be a lot better for the planet,” says Edward Glaeser, if people are “in dense cities built around the elevator rather than in sprawling areas built around the car.”

Shlomo Angel believes that planning can make a big difference in the way cities are allowed to grow. However, good planning requires looking decades ahead, says Angel, and reserving land—before the city grows over it—for parks and public transportation space. It also requires, as in the example of Seoul, looking at growing cities in a positive way—as concentrations of human energy. With the Earth's population headed toward nine or ten billion, dense and carefully planned cities are looking more like a solution—perhaps the best hope for lifting people out of poverty without wrecking⁹ the planet.

³ If you are a **champion** of something, you support or defend it.

⁴ A **perspective** is a way of thinking about something.

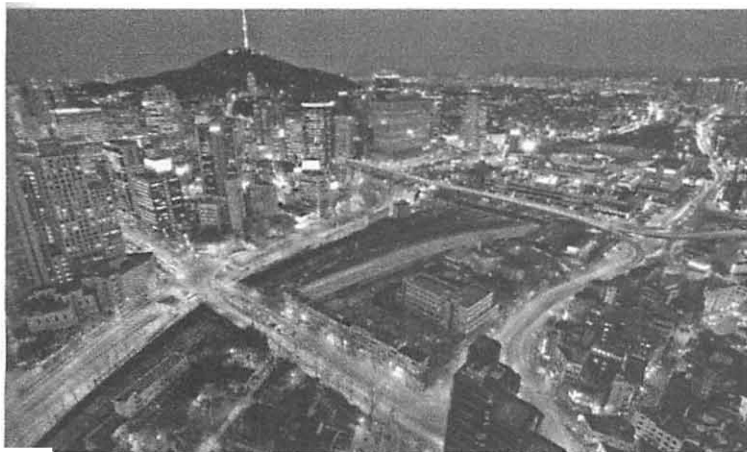
⁵ **Per capita** means per person—for example, the impact per person that people living in cities have on the environment.

⁶ **Sewers** are large underground channels that carry waste matter and rainwater away.

⁷ If something is **sprawling**, it is growing outward in an uncontrolled way.

⁸ **Capital** is cash or goods used to generate income, usually by investing in business or in property.

⁹ To **wreck** something means to completely destroy or ruin it.



▲ In 1961, just 28 percent of Koreans lived in cities; today, Korea's population is more than 80 percent urban.

A | Identifying Main Ideas. Skim the reading again. Choose the sentence in each pair that best expresses the main idea.

1. Paragraph A:
 - a. Less than three percent of the world's population lived in cities in 1800.
 - b. More than one-half of the people on Earth now live in cities.
2. Paragraph B:
 - a. In recent decades, attitudes toward living in cities have changed.
 - b. In the 19th century, many people viewed cities negatively.
3. Paragraph C:
 - a. Successful cities attract and reward smart people.
 - b. Cities bring largely positive benefits.
4. Paragraph D:
 - a. Urbanization is good for the environment.
 - b. People living in dense cities drive less.
5. Paragraph E:
 - a. Seoul, South Korea, is an example of how to manage rapid urbanization.
 - b. The biggest issue facing urban planners is how to manage urban growth.
6. Paragraph G:
 - a. Seoul has millions of cars, but it also has an excellent transportation system.
 - b. Overall, life has improved for Koreans during the decades of rapid urbanization.
7. Paragraph K:
 - a. Planning requires looking at cities in a positive way.
 - b. Planning can make a big difference in the way cities are allowed to grow.

B | Identifying Key Details. Answer the questions about details in "Living on an Urban Planet."

1. What fraction of the world's population could live in cities by 2050? (Paragraph A)

2. Why did many people view cities in negative terms in the 19th and early 20th centuries? (Paragraph B)

3. According to Edward Glaeser, what are two benefits of living in cities? (Paragraph C)

4. According to Stewart Brand, what is one benefit of dense cities? (Paragraph D)

5. How did economic growth help Seoul make room for the increasing number of people who came to the city? (Paragraph F)

6. What is “urban sprawl”? (Paragraph H)

7. According to Shlomo Angel, what are two causes of urban sprawl? (Paragraph I)

8. What are two ways to make people less dependent on cars in cities? (Paragraph J)

CT Focus: Evaluating Sources

Writers often **quote or paraphrase** the ideas of experts to support information in an article. When writers quote an idea, they write the expert’s exact words in quotation marks. When writers paraphrase, they write the expert’s idea in their own words and do not use quotation marks. Writers often introduce a quote or paraphrase with *According to . . .* or *[he/she] thinks/says/believes . . .* When you read a quote or paraphrase from an expert, ask yourself these questions: What are the expert’s credentials—that is, his or her profession or area of expertise? How do the quotes or paraphrases support the writer’s main ideas? How do they strengthen the writer’s arguments?

C | Critical Thinking: Evaluating Sources. Find the following four quotes and paraphrases in “Living on an Urban Planet.” Note the paragraph where you find each one. Then discuss with a partner your answers to the questions below.

1. _____ According to Glaeser, a perfect example of how information can be exchanged in an urban environment is the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street. “They value knowledge over space. That’s what the modern city is all about.”
2. _____ From an ecological perspective, says Brand, moving people out of cities would be disastrous.
3. _____ Shlomo Angel . . . sees two main reasons for urban sprawl—rising incomes and cheaper transportation. “When income rises, people have money to buy more space,” he says.
4. _____ Shlomo Angel believes that planning can make a big difference in the way cities are allowed to grow. However, good planning requires looking decades ahead, says Angel, and reserving land—before the city grows over it—for parks and public transportation space.

1. Circle the direct quotes. Underline the paraphrases.
2. What idea does each quote or paraphrase support?
3. Does the writer give the experts’ credentials? What are their credentials?
4. How does the quote/paraphrase strengthen the writer’s arguments?

D | Personalizing. Write an answer to the following question: Do you agree that city life is mainly beneficial? Why, or why not?

Reading Skill: Identifying Reasons

Writers give reasons to explain and support their main ideas. When you look for reasons that support and explain ideas, look for information that answers the questions “Why?,” “How?,” or “What is one reason that . . . ?” Look at this example from Paragraph C on pages 51–52:

Main idea: Cities are mostly beneficial. **Question:** Why?

The writer supports this idea with many reasons, including the following: *Successful cities attract and reward smart people with higher wages, and they enable people to learn from one another.*

- A | Understanding Reasons.** Read the two paragraphs. Answer the questions that follow. Then underline the information in the paragraphs that gives you the answers.

People who live in areas affected by urban sprawl tend to rely more on cars to get to school and work or to go shopping. Urban sprawl also increases road traffic as people increasingly rely on roads and highways. As a result, suburban residents not only use more energy, they face longer commutes and are more dependent on fossil fuels, such as gas, than people who live in cities.

- What is one reason that people who live in suburbs use more energy than people who live in cities?

“Smart growth” is an approach to development aimed at addressing the problems caused by urban sprawl. In smart-growth communities, new development involves creating downtown areas that combine housing with commercial areas and places of entertainment. Because the places where they work, shop, and relax are close together, residents can use low-energy forms of transportation, such as walking, biking, and public transportation, to get around. Creating these kinds of energy-efficient communities helps residents save time and money, and reduces the demand for natural resources such as fossil fuels.

- How can smart growth help people use fewer resources?

- B | Applying.** Reread Paragraph D on page 52. Find and underline reasons that support the main idea: *Urbanization is good for the environment.* Then answer the questions.

1. Why would it be a bad idea for people to move out of cities?

2. How do people who live in cities save energy?

3. Why do dense cities produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions than suburbs do?
