

1. *Read the following facts and figures about urbanization.*
2. *Select the facts that your group considers to be the five most important facts, based on what you have learned about societies in Africa, Asia, and Australasia.*
3. *Create a diagram that presents these facts and explains their importance.*



Total Population Growth

- In 2000, world population reached 6.1 billion, and is growing at an annual rate of 1.2 percent, or 77 million people per year.
- In 1950, 68 percent of the world's population was in developing countries (of which 8 percent lived in the least-developed countries); 32 percent of the world's population was in developed countries.
- By 2030, it is expected that 85 percent of the world's population will be in developing countries (of which 15 percent will be in the least-developed countries); only 15 percent of the world's population is expected to be in developed countries. In other words, the percentage of the world's population that lives in developed countries is declining.
- By 2050, the number of persons older than 60 years will more than triple, from 606 million to nearly 2 billion. The number of persons over 80 years of age will increase even more, from 69 million in 2000 to 379 million in 2050, more than a five-fold increase.

Urbanization: Global Facts and Figures

- In 1800, only 2 percent of the world's population was urbanized.
- In 1950, only 30 percent of the world population was urban.
- In 2000, 47 percent of the world population was urban.
- More than half of the world's population will be living in urban areas by 2008.
- By 2030, it is expected that 60 percent of the world population will live in urban areas.
- Almost 180,000 people are added to the urban population each day.
- It is estimated that there are almost a billion poor people in the world. Of these, over 750 million live in urban areas without adequate shelter and basic services.

Urbanization: Regional Comparisons

- The population in urban areas in less-developed countries will grow from 1.9 billion in 2000 to 3.9 billion in 2030.
- But in developed countries, the urban population is expected to increase very slowly, from 0.9 billion in 2000 to 1 billion in 2030.

- The overall growth rate for the world for that period is 1 percent, while the growth rate for urban areas is nearly double, or 1.8 percent. At that rate, the world's urban population will double in 38 years.
- Growth will be even more rapid in the urban areas of less-developed regions, averaging 2.3 percent per year, with a doubling time of 30 years.
- The urbanization process in more-developed countries has stabilized with about 75 percent of the population living in urban areas. By 2030, 84 percent of the population in more-developed countries will be living in urban areas.
- Latin America and the Caribbean were 50 percent urbanized by 1960 but are now in the region of 75 percent.
- Though Africa is predominantly rural, with only 37.3 percent living in urban areas in 1999, with a growth rate of 4.87 percent, Africa is the continent with the fastest rate of urbanization.
- In 1999, 36.2 percent of the Asian population was urbanized and the urban growth rate is in the region of 3.77 percent.
- The urban population of developing countries is expected to reach 50 percent in 2020.
- By 2030, Asia and Africa will both have higher numbers of urban dwellers than any other major area of the world.

Urban Agglomerations, or More Mega Cities

- In 1950, there was only one city with a population of over 10 million inhabitants: New York City.
- By 2015, it is expected that there will be 23 cities with a population over 10 million.
- Of the 23 cities expected to reach 10 million-plus by 2015, 19 of them will be in developing countries.
- In 2000 there were 22 cities with a population of between 5 and 10 million; there were 402 cities with a population of 1 to 5 million; and 433 cities in the .5 to 1 million category.

Source:

Urbanization Facts and Figures

www.unhabitat.org/Istanbul+5/booklet4.pdf

