



#8678

CITIES: WHAT ARE THEY? (2ND EDITION)

Grade Levels: K-7

17 minutes

ALFRED HIGGINS PRODUCTIONS, INC. 1999

DESCRIPTION

Cities--what are they? How did they get started? What do they have in common? A city planner supplies answers to these and other questions as we visit major American cities. Describes the function of city government and notes the services, characteristics, and even problems cities share.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Human Systems

- ◆ Standard: Understands the patterns of human settlement and their causes
 - Benchmark: Knows the settlement patterns that characterize the development of a community or state (e.g., from the movement of people into an area previously unoccupied to the competition among villages for economic dominance and growth; from a small number of dispersed settlers with few services to the modern pattern of suburbanization and decentralization)

Subject Area: Places and Regions

- ◆ Standard: Understands the physical and human characteristics of place
 - Benchmark: Knows the physical and human characteristics of the local community (e.g., neighborhoods, schools, parks, creeks, shopping areas, airports, museums, sports stadiums, hospitals)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

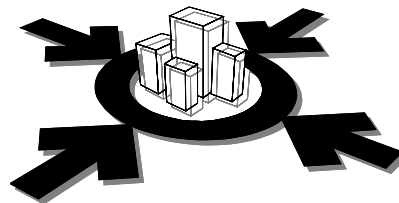
1. To study why cities got started and the reasons for their being built in certain geographical areas.
2. To compare and contrast cities.
3. To illustrate cities' various facilities and cultural attractions.
4. To view the features of a city government and the services it provides.
5. To examine one's own city as well as others'.



AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Our early cities began as trading centers. For what reasons did our first cities grow along seacoasts? What was the easiest way, in those early days, for people and goods to move from place to place?
2. Cities have many things in common. For example, they have different kinds of industries which provide jobs for people. What are some of these industries? Identify some other features that cities have in common with one another.
3. When so many people live together, they need a city government. What are some of the many different services a city government provides?
4. Parts of a city may become too old for people to live in. What is it called when these old parts are rebuilt? Why is urban renewal so important to the present and future of a city? Discuss.
5. What are some of the predominant features of your city or of a city you've visited? How did it get started? For what reasons was it built where it is? What are some of the services the city government provides? What features are unique to the city?



Applications and Activities

1. Some of our large cities began when our nation was very young. New York City is one example. Our capital, Washington, D.C., is another example. New Orleans is another. What are some other examples? On a map, locate each city and its waterway. Note its relationship to surrounding areas, and then discuss why it grew where it did.
2. Research something about the city that's of interest to you and then share your knowledge in class.
3. As a class project, plan and build a city, using small models and building to scale. How would you plan the city? Where would you put places for people to live? Where would you plan for schools, factories, airports, stores, medical facilities, and other buildings? What other places and services would you include? In which areas would you place them? What features of your own city or town would you include? With an eye toward the future, what other features would you include or plan for?

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- A Community at Work #8682
- Neighborhoods #2627
- Your Town: Communication #3224
- Your Town: Public Works #3283



World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid-safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **KIDS AND COMMUNITY**

<http://www.planning.org/kidsandcommunity/>

For kids, developed by America’s city planners. Explore how you can create communities, how you live in them, and how you change them.

- **BLS CAREER INFORMATION**

http://stats.bls.gov/k12/html/soc_005.htm

Learn what city planners do, what the job is like, what the future holds, and more.

- **GOVSPOT**

<http://www.govspot.com/>

Under the “Government Online” heading in the upper left corner, click on “Local Gov.” and click on your state and city for information on attractions, events, history, and more.

