

World Cities

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Standard Title: Strand V – Geography

Substrand F – Spatial Organization

Standard – The student will be able to analyze the patterns of location, functions, structure, and characteristics of local to global settlement patterns and the processes that affect the location of cities.

Benchmark #6 – Students will provide examples of how the internal structure of cities varies around the world.

Grade Level:

9-12 grade.

Title: World Cities.

Overview:

Students in the class will be split up into groups and given an area of land somewhere in the world which will be identified to the student (North America – west, North America – east, Latin America, European, African, Islamic, Southeast Asian). Students will then be asked to produce a city on that location. They will be given characteristics of the cities to produce a city close to what they would think they would see in that area of the world. Students can produce these replicas on paper or on computer.

Time:

3 class periods on an 84 minute block schedule.

Subjects:

Human Geography

Required Materials:

Notes of World Cities. Included in Lesson Plan

Goode's World Atlas or one similar.

Computer Technology – optional

Optional Technologies:

Student can produce North American cities with SimCity 3000 simulation game.

Objectives:

Students will be able to....

1. Identify major differences in world cities based on their structure.

2. Analyze the differences and reasons why the cities are different around the world.
3. Evaluate the interaction between commercial, industrial, and residential in different cities throughout the world.

Opening the Lessons:

Students will be assigned into groups. The groups will be based on the following categories:

1. North American – East :
This city is characterized by tight streets and high population densities. They have high rise CBD's and usually have some form of mass transportation due to the population density. Parking is usually done in streets and space is at a premium. This group will get the physical layout of Manhattan.
2. North American – West:
This city is characterized by space. Suburbs are crucial to the success of these cities. They are more spread out and need transportation systems to support them usually in the form of roads. They have a high rise CBD and most residential areas possess a garage and some lawns. This group will get the physical layout of Denver.
3. Latin American :
This city is focused on an upper income residential “spine” which extends outwards from the CBD. Most of the transportation systems come into the CBD, which assures the dominance of it. Almost like a hub and spoke system. Lower class or favelas are located throughout the cities due to the number of lower class coming into the city. It is one of the fastest growing urban areas in the world. Industrial regions are usually located on the outskirts of the city. This group will get the physical layout of Buenos Aires.
4. European:
This city is focused on the history of the area. High rises are located in the suburbs due to the city center already being formed when technology was invented to build up. Streets are narrow because they were invented before the advent of the automobiles. Many cities were damaged during the world wars therefore will have modern buildings next to historic cores. Most of these cities will have good public transportation systems due to the social welfare system. This group will have the physical layout of London.
5. African:
This city has three distinctive CBD's including one for the colonial imprint; one for the modern CBD and one for the market gardening area. These are the fastest growing urban areas in the world due to the poverty in the surrounding areas. These cities usually have poor transportation systems due to the lack of infrastructure and tax base. This group will have the physical layout of Lagos.
6. Islamic:
This city is characterized by its religious overtones. Windows must be above the eye level on most buildings. Many of these cities are very modern due to the oil trade. Domes on mosques dominate the city skyline. Transportation systems are very modern due to money from natural resources. This group will have the physical layout of Tehran.
7. Southeast Asian:

This city is very modern due to the influence of western money. Zones are designated from western city businesses. Usually these cities are located on a port for access to ship materials to the Western World. High-rise buildings dominate the CBD. This group will have the physical layout of Singapore.

Groups will get a physical layout of the cities and must draw the cities structure based on the following clues. Students can and should look at atlases to determine which city they are drawing. Students can use the models located in their books for assistance in drawing their cities.

Once the students have finished with their cities. They will compare with the other groups and then the true identity of the cityscape that they had will be revealed. Students must correlate their city that they created with the layout of the city in which they modeled after (New York, Denver, Buenos Aires, etc.)

The final product is that the students will have produced a land use map identifying the land use patterns in world cities. Maps will be displayed in the classroom for discussion.

Resource Bar:

Discussion Questions:

1. Outline the major differences in world cities and their patterns.
2. Without knowing what the other groups had on their note cards. Can students guess the major characteristics of cities around the world.
3. Which regions of the world possess the best infrastructure for growth? Which areas are the worst? Why?
4. Discuss the urbanization growth factors in each of the reasons. Why are Latin American and African cities the quickest to grow?