

AP Human Geography Curriculum

Unit Name	Unit VII- Urbanization
Short Descriptive Overview	This topic divides urban geography into two subfields; the study of cities and the pattern of urbanization. Students examine such topics as the distribution of cities, types of transportation and communication among cities. Theories of settlement geography, such as Christaller's central place theory and the gravity model, are introduced. Quantitative information on such topics as population density, population influence, and employment is used to analyze changes in the urban hierarchy. Students also examine such as the analysis of patterns of urban land use, ethnic segregation, infrastructure, and the effects of uneven development and environmental concerns. Comparative urbanization (globalization) is also discussed.
Generalizations/ Enduring Understandings	Students will understand the form, function, and size of urban settlements are ever changing. They will better understand the distribution and size of cities; models of internal city structure and urban form; a framework for urban analysis; urban landscapes reflect the attitudes and values of a culture; and the economic, social, political, cultural, and environmental challenges of urbanization.
Learning Objectives	
Learning Progressions	Students will know that site and situation influence the origin, function, and growth of cities; that communication have facilitated urbanizations (Borchert's Epochs), world cities function as nodes in the urban hierarchy and drive globalization; function of megacities of the periphery and semi-periphery; primate cities, Christaller's Central place Theory; the gravity model in explaining interaction; Burgess concentric-zone model, the Hoyt sector model, and the Harris-Ullman multiple nuclei model; world-regional models are useful for explaining land use and urban development; that land use and interconnection within a metropolitan area are dependent upon infrastructure; sustainable and smart-growth policies; functional and geographic fragmentation of governments present challenges to urban issues; quantitative data about a city's population is provided by census and surveys; that social problems associated with growth/decline of urban communities include housing shortages, affordability, food deserts, access to public services, disamenity zones, zones of abandonment, suburban sprawl, sanitation, air and water quality, remediation and redevelopment of brownfields, and protection and energy use.