

Words

- **art exhibition** = room or building in which you can see paintings by artists
- **attraction** = something interesting to see
- **attractive** = liked by many people
- **characteristic** = very typical of something
- **consist of** = made up of
- **department store** = a large shop that is divided into many sections; each section sells something else
- **mill** = factory
- **offer** = give
- **pleasure** = happiness, satisfaction
- **population** = all the people that live in a place
- **public** = open to everybody
- **relax** = rest
- **residential area** = part of town where only people live; with no factories or offices
- **shopping mall** = shopping centre with many different kinds of stores
- **skyscraper** = a very tall and modern building
- **warehouse** = a large building where you keep many products

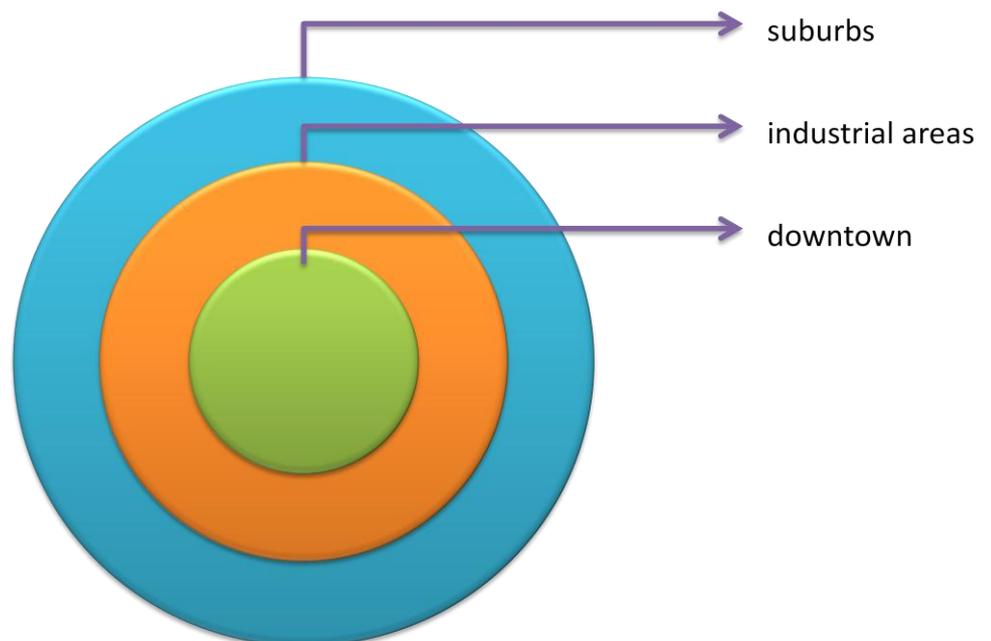
A city is a place where thousands or even millions of people live in a very small area. Cities are much larger and more important than towns or villages. Today, about half of the world's **population** live in cities.

PARTS OF A CITY

Today's modern cities often have three **characteristic** areas. The centre of the city is called downtown. It **consists** of stores, banks, government buildings and cultural **attractions**. Many people come to work in the downtown area. In large cities the downtown area is full of **skyscrapers**.

An industrial region with factories, **warehouses**, **mills** and other industries lies around the downtown area.

Suburbs are the places farthest away from the city centre. They are new **residential** areas where most people live. Suburbs have their own stores and **shopping malls** but people often have to travel an hour or longer to work downtown.



LIFE IN CITIES

Cities have become very **attractive** places because they **offer** people not only jobs and work but also many things they can do in their free time. You can go to museums or **art exhibitions**, **relax** in **public** parks, listen to music at concerts or eat out at expensive restaurants that offer food from all over the world. Big **department stores** give you the **pleasure** of buying many things without leaving the building.

Words

- **care for** = to do things for the people
- **citizen** = a person who lives in a city or country and has rights there
- **crowded** = full of people
- **developing country** = a poor country of the Third World
- **electricity** = the power that is in wires and cables and which is used to make things work
- **get around** = travel from one place to another
- **government** = the people who rule a city
- **include** = to have in it
- **mayor** = the boss of a city
- **metropolitan** = belonging to a city
- **migrate** = to go to a country to live or find work there
- **police force** = the police organization of a city
- **protect** = defend, keep safe
- **provide** = give
- **public transport** = buses, trains, subways that are here for everyone to use
- **reach** = go from ... to ...
- **resident** = a person who lives in a place
- **service** = special help or work
- **suburb** = area in which people live, which is far away from the city centre
- **surround** = around an object
- **term** = word, phrase
- **urban** = city-like
- **variety** = many different
- **waste** = unwanted materials that people throw away after they have used them

Cities offer their **residents** and the people who work there a **variety** of ways of getting around. Many people walk or ride a bike, which is often the fastest way to **get around** in a **crowded** city.



All cities offer at least some forms of **public transport**: buses, trains or trams. Large cities have subways that travel underground.

A city has its own **government**, called the city council. The head of a city is its **mayor**. City governments have many things to **care for**. They must organize their own **police force** to **protect** the **citizens** and fight crime. They must **provide** residents with drinking water, **electricity**, heating, hospitals and **services** to get rid of **waste**. The city council must decide in which parts of the city new factories or houses can be built.

CITY DEFINITIONS

The term **metropolitan** area is used to define the city itself and the **surrounding suburbs** or other **urban** areas. The city of New York, for example, has a population of 8 million, but its metropolitan area **includes** many other cities around it: a total of about 20 million people in all.

Megalopolis is a **term** used to describe large cities that are so close to each other that they start to grow together. Boswash, for example, is a megalopolis that **reaches** from Boston to Washington, D.C. New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore also belong to this region. Almost 50 million people live here.

Megacity is a word used to describe very large cities, mostly over 10 million people. Examples are Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Mumbai and others. Most of them are in **developing countries** where thousands of people **migrate** from the countryside to the cities every day.



Words

- **ancient** = old
- **aspect** = way
- **craftsman** = someone who is skilled and can make things with his hands
- **crop** = a plant like wheat or rice that is grown by farmers and sold as food
- **disease** = illness
- **emerge** = come up
- **expand** = grow
- **goldsmith** = someone who makes or sells things made of gold
- **Gothic** = building style with sharp tall towers
- **guild** = organization of people who have the same jobs
- **include** = to be part of something
- **inhabitant** = person who lives in a place
- **medieval** = about the Middle Ages
- **Mediterranean** = region between Europe and Africa
- **merchant** = person who buys and sells things
- **newcomer** = someone who has just arrived
- **occupy** = here: take up
- **outcast** = someone who is not accepted by other people; outsider
- **prehistoric** = ancient, old
- **protect** = guard, defend
- **raise animals** = feed animals so that you can sell their milk or meat
- **servant** = person who works in the household
- **settle** = to start living in a place
- **sewage system** = waste and used water that a house produces ; it is transported away in pipes under the ground
- **slave** = someone who is owned by another person and works for them for little or no money
- **soldier** = a person who goes to war for a country
- **spread** = move from one place to another
- **tailor** = a person who makes clothes so that they fit a person perfectly
- **tear -tore** = rip or split open
- **temple** = a building where people go to pray
- **trade** = buy and sell products

HISTORY OF CITIES

In **prehistoric** times people were hunters and travelled around. They never lived in one place. As they started to grow **crops** and **raise animals** they **settled** in villages which later grew to larger towns.

Ancient Cities

The first real cities **emerged** in Mesopotamia about 5,000 years ago. In **ancient** cities people were not only farmers, they also were **craftsmen**. People lived together in larger houses or buildings. Many cities had walls around them that **protected** the **inhabitants** from enemies. The central part of the city **included** a **temple** or a place to pray.

The biggest **ancient** city was Rome. Up to one million people lived there, in many **aspects** Rome was a modern city with streets, market places, arenas, parks and even a **sewage system**.

The people in ancient cities were divided into classes. Government officials, **soldiers** and priests belonged to the upper classes. The middle and lower classes were made up of **merchants**, farmers and craft workers. **Newcomers** and **slaves** had to live outside the city and were seen as **outcasts**.

Medieval cities

After the fall of the Roman Empire the population of cities fell. **Trading** between cities, which the Romans started, stopped again.

Medieval cities were small in size. The centre was often **occupied** by a **Gothic** cathedral, the city's main church. It was the most expensive building in the city and showed that religion was very important during the Middle Ages.

As in ancient cities, medieval ones were dirty and **diseases spread** quickly. Land in the city was very expensive. Cities could not **expand** because of the walls around them. In some cases, city governments **tore** down the walls and rebuilt them farther away from the city.

During the Middle Ages members of the family, **servants** and workers often lived in the same house. Craft workers and **merchants** were organized in **guilds**, a new economic class in the cities. There were guilds for bakers, **goldsmiths**, **tailors** and other groups.

Towards the end of the Middle Ages **trade** started to become important again. Venice, one of the biggest cities of the time, became a centre of trade in the **Mediterranean** region. Other trading centres **included** northern German cities, Hamburg and Lübeck, Antwerp in Belgium and London.



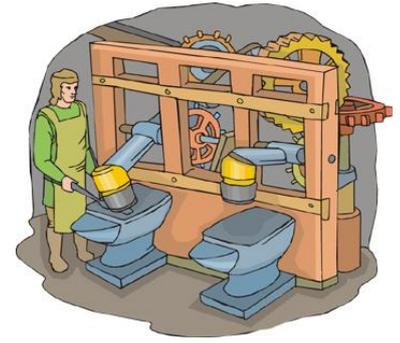
symbol of the blacksmith's guild

Words

- **craft workers** = people who are skilled at something
- **crowded** = packed full with people
- **distance** = space from one place to another
- **dump** = get rid of, throw away
- **electricity** = the power that is in wires and cables and which is used to make things work
- **factory** = building in which people produce goods with machines
- **flat** = apartment
- **focus on** = to be in the spotlight, centre
- **garbage** = waste
- **growth** = increase; when something gets bigger
- **harbour** = place where ships stay when they load or unload goods
- **housing** = the houses that people live in and in which condition they are
- **however** = but
- **hut** = simple house, often with only one room
- **lack** = not to have enough of
- **landfill** = place where waste is buried under the ground
- **owner** = person whom something belongs to
- **pollute** = to make dirty
- **poor** = bad
- **previous** = here: some time ago
- **profit** = income, money you earn
- **public transport** = buses, trains, subways that are here for everyone to use
- **resident** = person who lives in a place
- **rust** = reddish-brown material that forms when steel or iron gets wet
- **sanitation** = to remove waste and make dirty water clean again
- **settle** = to start living in a place
- **skilled** = if you can do special work
- **skyscraper** = a very tall and modern building
- **suburb** = area in which people live, which is far away from the city centre
- **terraced house** = a house which is part of a row of houses joined together
- **unhealthy** = bad for your body
- **warehouse** = a large building where you keep many products
- **waste** = unwanted materials that people throw away after they have used them

Industrial cities

The Industrial Revolution and the **growth** of factories changed the lives of many people. Many people started to leave their farms in the countryside and moved to the cities where they hoped to get jobs in new **factories**. Machines could do work much quicker than people. Many **skilled craft workers** lost their work.



The industrial city **focused** on factories, **warehouses**, railway lines and **harbours**. Workers lived in cheap **terraced houses**. The central parts of the city were very **crowded**; the air was **polluted** by the smoke coming out of the factories. **Garbage** and **rusting** metal was **dumped** everywhere. Factory workers had tiring jobs, in which they worked up to 16 hours a day.

Only few people became rich during the Industrial Revolution. Factory **owners** made big **profits** and built themselves houses outside the city.

Modern cities of the 20th century

In the 20th century cities grew more than ever before. Architects discovered a new way to get more space in the city. They built **skyscrapers**.

As time went on more and more people moved away from the inner parts of the city and **settled** down in the **suburbs**, which were places where it was quieter and where the quality of life was better. These suburbs became small towns with their own office buildings and shopping centres. **Residents** can work and live there without having to travel long **distances** to the centre. Poorer people, **however**, stayed in the centres and formed ghettos. They **lacked** the money to buy houses or **flats** in the more expensive suburbs.



Today's cities are much larger than cities in **previous** times. With the help of cars and **public transport** people can get to all parts of a city very quickly.

CITY PROBLEMS

Modern cities all over the world face the same problems. One of them is **poor housing**. People often live in old houses or **huts** that don't have **electricity** or **sanitation**. As city population grows governments don't have the money to build modern apartment buildings.

Cars and industries are polluting city air and rivers more and more. **Waste** that people throw away is burned or ends up in **landfills**. All of this makes modern cities an **unhealthy** place to live in.

Words

- **city authorities** = people or organizations who control the city and govern it
- **constantly** = always
- **drastically** = very much
- **drug addiction** = if you have to take drugs regularly without stopping
- **especially** = above all, more than ever
- **face** = deal with
- **get rid of** = do away with , stop
- **local** = city
- **mayor** = boss of a city
- **multiethnic** = full of people from different countries
- **on the rise** = go up
- **poverty** = the situation of being very poor
- **public transport** = buses, trains, subways that are here for everyone to use
- **reduce** = to make something smaller or less
- **relieve** = to make a problem better
- **rely** = to depend on so that you can continue living
- **remain** = stay
- **resident** = a person who lives in a city
- **rush hour** = time of day when lots of cars travel and buses and trains are full because many people are travelling to work
- **step** = action
- **traffic** = all the cars, buses, bikes etc.. that move on a street
- **traffic jam** = long line of cars on a road that cannot move or move very slowly
- **unemployed** = out of work, with no job
- **vehicle** = machine with an engine that transports people or things
- **violent** = full of action in which people are killed or shot

Especially during morning and evening **rush hours** cities become packed with **vehicles**.

Daily **traffic jams** make it impossible for people to get to work in time. **City authorities** are spending more and more money on **public transportation** and are talking other **steps** to **reduce** traffic in cities. A few years ago the London **mayor** made people pay to drive their cars into the city centre.



Cities of today face many social problems. Crime, alcoholism and **drug addiction** is especially high in cities. Many young people are **unemployed**.

Larger **multiethnic** cities **face** conflicts between groups with different cultural backgrounds. Blacks and whites in the USA and South Africa had a **violent** history in the 20th century.



Even though **residents** of cities have a higher standard of living there **remain** many poor people. Government organizations work hard to **get rid of poverty**. They try to give such people better education and jobs.

FUTURE OF CITIES

As the world's population is **constantly on the rise** more and more people are moving to cities. Some **local** governments are trying to **relieve** cities of overpopulation by building new towns outside city areas.

Cities will have to become greener. Modern buildings will **rely** on new energy forms. **Traffic** will have to change **drastically**.

