

Name :

Urban Revolution

Cities are a fact of life for almost half of the world's population. For the first time in history, urban dwellers now outnumber those living in rural areas. By the year 2025, the global urban population will have more than doubled from 2.4 billion in 1995 to 5 billion. This shift from rural to urban is regarded as the largest migration in history. It has also made the world's cities more important and influential than at any other time in the past.

Consider the importance of this urban migration. People move to cities because of the key features of contemporary (modern) life that can be found within cities. These include

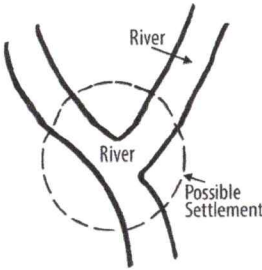
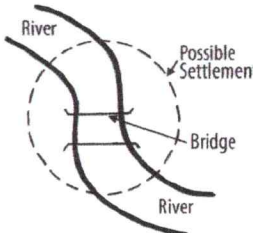
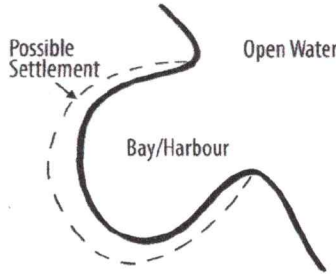
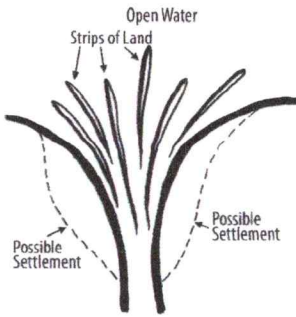
- cultural centres
- museums and galleries
- newspapers, magazines, and other forms of media
- educational institutions
- jobs (cities usually account for 80% of a country's GNP)
- greater recreational activities

Why Are Cities Located Where They Are?

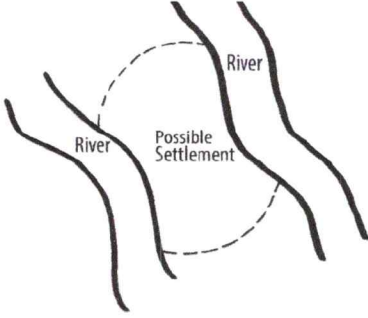
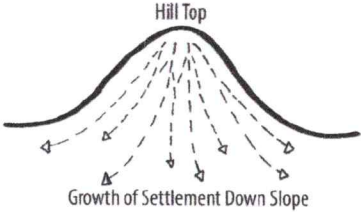
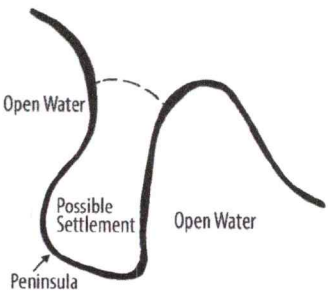
Why do people live together in urban groupings? The ultimate answer is rooted in the evolutionary past, when our ancestors banded together for their mutual survival.

The origins of cities date back to at least 5000 BCE (over 7000 years ago), which archeologists have unearthed in their discoveries in the Middle East. Cities developed as new farming techniques enabled people to produce more food than they needed; therefore, not all people were needed to obtain food. Urban centres gradually became places where products and services were traded for surplus food from the countryside. Early towns remained small because transportation was limited.

Settlers were likely to seek sites for their homes (and cities) close to resources with which they could earn a living or which they needed for their survival. Various places where settlements are likely to be established are detailed in the following table, with examples. Remember, many cities continue to grow and prosper long after the reasons for choosing the original site have been forgotten.

Natural Topography	Visual Representation	Example
Confluence of Two Rivers (the meeting of two rivers)	 <p>The diagram shows two solid lines representing rivers meeting at a central point. A dashed circle is drawn around the confluence point, with an arrow pointing to it labeled 'Possible Settlement'. One of the river lines is labeled 'River'.</p>	Montreal Winnipeg
River Crossing	 <p>The diagram shows two solid lines representing rivers crossing each other. A dashed circle is drawn around the intersection point, with an arrow pointing to it labeled 'Possible Settlement'. A horizontal line with two short vertical segments at each end, representing a bridge, crosses both rivers. One of the river lines is labeled 'River'.</p>	Edmonton Kansas City
Natural Harbour	 <p>The diagram shows a solid line representing a coastline that forms a bay or harbour. The area inside the bay is labeled 'Bay/Harbour'. The area outside the bay is labeled 'Open Water'. A dashed circle is drawn around the inner curve of the bay, with an arrow pointing to it labeled 'Possible Settlement'.</p>	Halifax New York City
River Delta	 <p>The diagram shows a solid line representing a river that splits into multiple channels, forming a delta. The channels are labeled 'Strips of Land'. The area between the channels is labeled 'Open Water'. Two dashed circles are drawn around the lower ends of the channels, with arrows pointing to them labeled 'Possible Settlement'.</p>	New Orleans

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Natural Topography	Visual Representation	Example
Portage Point (point between two rivers)		Chicago
Defensive Hilltop		Quebec City
Peninsula		Boston

Where do you live? Why do you think the early settlers to the area chose that particular site for their settlement?

The Role and Functions of Cities

As you read previously, the growth of urban settlement was accompanied by new and more complex divisions of labour—not all people were needed to grow and raise food. Occupations such as trader, priest, and administrator appeared. These occupations had little to do with growing or gathering food. Thus, towns created an entirely new form of society in which occupations became specialized.

The location of a city, as you previously learned, has much to do with the geography of the area: settlers chose sites near the natural resources they needed. A city may grow and thrive for just one reason or for any number of reasons. Cities may grow to serve many functions, such as administration (government), defence, trade, finance, resources, and so on.

Consider the following Canadian cities:

■ Ottawa

- European settlement began in 1800 when it was discovered that timber could be transported down the Ottawa River to Montreal: the city experienced a boom based almost solely on the timber trade. In 1857, Queen Victoria chose Ottawa as the capital of the then-province of United Canada because of its strategic location halfway between Montreal and Toronto. Today, Ottawa is the administrative centre of Canada and is home to a wealth of national museums, official residences, government buildings, memorials, and heritage structures.

■ Halifax

- The modern city of Halifax was founded in 1759 by the British because of the presence of its naturally deep harbour (the second deepest in the world) which made it ideal for a military base. The city is still sometimes called the "Warden of the North" for its historic military role. The strength of the city's present-day economy rests on traditional defence and on jobs related to the port.

■ Vancouver

- British Columbia's largest city is named after British explorer Captain George Vancouver. The city was incorporated in 1886, the same year that the first transcontinental train arrived. After that, Vancouver grew rapidly. Since the completion of the Panama Canal in 1914, which made it possible to ship grain exports west through the port of Vancouver, the city has grown to be the busiest seaport in Canada. Today, Vancouver is a centre of trade, exporting more cargo than any other port in North America.

■ Toronto

- The modern City of Toronto was incorporated in 1834. It is Canada's largest city with a population of 5.5 million (2008). Toronto is a major international centre for business and finance. It is considered the financial capital of Canada. Toronto has a high concentration of banks and brokerage firms on Bay Street, in the Financial District. The Toronto Stock Exchange is the seventh-largest stock in the world.

■ Thompson

- The modern city of Thompson, Manitoba began in 1956, when geologists discovered a major ore body in the region. Shortly thereafter, the mining company Inco Limited signed an agreement with the province and began constructing a mine, a mill, a smelter, and a town. In 1970, Thompson was incorporated as a city, having reached a population of 20,000. Queen Elizabeth II was present for the milestone celebration. At the time this course was written, the most prominent industry was the mining, milling, smelting, and refining of nickel. The total number of people in the City of Thompson's labour force equalled 3,389, with 42% employed at the Inco nickel mine.



Cities may have one or many roles/functions that lead to their establishment and continued growth. The functions and activities on which a city depends for its existence are known as the community's **economic base**. Cities provide services and produce goods for people. Often, these goods and services bring money into the city from the surrounding area or hinterland.

Take a minute and think about your community. What function does your community serve? Or, do you live in the hinterland?

Global Cities



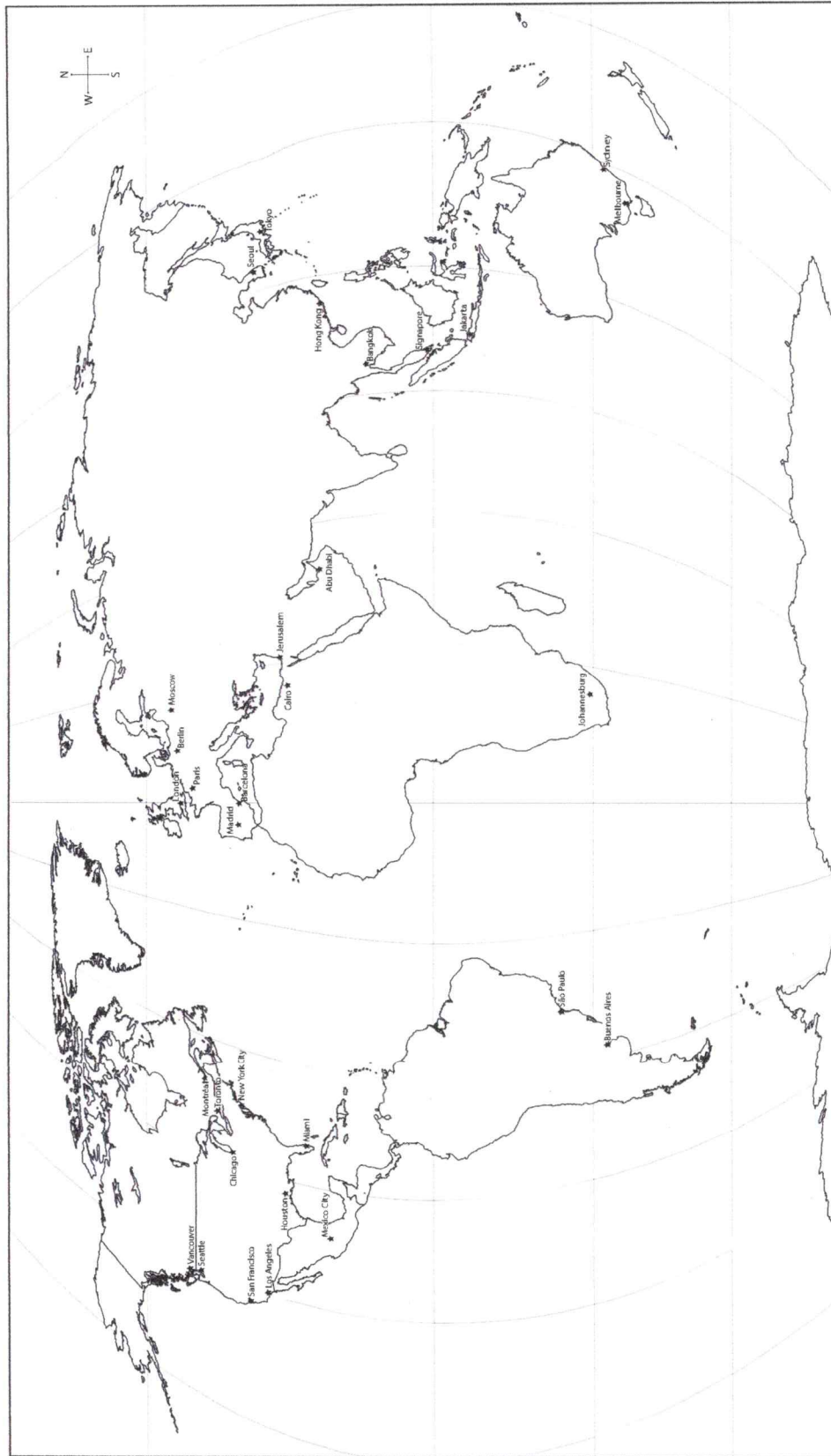
Some cities become so large and powerful that they have outstripped their national role and have come to prominence in the world sphere; for that reason, they are known as world cities or **global cities**. The term global city is thought to have been coined in 1991 to describe London, New York, and Tokyo. So, what makes a city a global city? What characteristics do London, New York, and Tokyo possess that make them global cities?

There has been debate among the world's academics as to exactly what characteristics a global city possesses. Most, however believe that a global city is one that

- is recognized by its first name only
 - *For example, even though there is a London in Ontario, Ohio, and Kentucky, most people simply say London – not London, United Kingdom – when speaking of the global city.*
- has an active influence on and participation in world affairs
 - *For example, New York City is home to the United Nations General Assembly and several of its other missions.*
- has a fairly large population of at least one million, if not substantially more
 - *Tokyo's population is almost 13 million (2008). The Greater Tokyo Area (centred on Tokyo but also including Chiba, Kanagawa, and Saitama) has a population of over 35 million people.*

- has a major international airport that acts as a centre for several international airlines
 - *Heathrow Airport in London has the largest number of international passengers each year.*
- has advanced transportation systems, such as networks of freeways, and several modes of mass transit (e.g., subways, ferries, or buses)
 - *The London Underground (the subway system in London, also called The Tube) is used by over 1 billion passengers each year.*
- in the West (North America and Western Europe), is made up of several international cultures and communities
 - *For example, a city may have a "Chinatown" or a "Little Italy." New York has both.*
- has a wide range of financial institutions, law firms, corporate headquarters, and stock exchanges that have influence over the world economy
 - *The New York Stock Exchange is the largest stock exchange in the world.*
- has world-renowned cultural institutions, such as museums and universities
 - *Tokyo has many universities, junior colleges, and vocational schools. Many of Japan's most prestigious universities are in Tokyo, the University of Tokyo being considered the most prestigious.*
- has a vibrant cultural and music/theatre scene; including film festivals, orchestras, operas, and art galleries
 - *London is one of the major classical and popular music capitals of the world and is home to major music corporations, such as EMI and Decca Records, as well as countless bands, musicians, and industry professionals.*
- is home to several media outlets that have a global reach; including things such as news services, newspapers, magazines, and television or radio stations
 - *New York is a global centre for the television, advertising, music, newspaper, and book publishing industries, and is also the largest media market in North America. Seven of the world's top-eight global advertising agency networks are headquartered in New York.*
- is home to several professional sporting teams, and has played a role in international sport by hosting events such as the Olympic Games, Football (Soccer) World Cup, or Grand Slam tennis events
 - *Tokyo is home to two professional baseball clubs and two professional football (soccer) teams; the Japan Sumo Association is also headquartered in Tokyo; and the city was host to the 1964 Olympic Summer Games.*

Global Cities



Global cities have become part of an international system. They are centres of political power, world trade, and communication, and they are leaders in banking and finance. Global cities attract world-stage entertainment and sporting spectacles. They are the headquarters of non-government organizations as well as international corporations. Global cities benefit from high levels of tourism. What Canadian cities are on the global cities map?



Learning Activity 5.2

Major Urban Centres in North America and the World



1. Using an atlas, or maps off the Internet, locate and indicate the major North American urban centres listed below on the map that follows.



Note: It may be difficult to place these locations on your map. Do your best to place them in the general area of their actual location. Also, remember to keep your map clear and easy to read. This means making labels a uniform size and placing them as close as possible to the location.

Major Urban Centres in North America		
Top 10 Largest Cities in Canada	Top 10 Largest Cities in the United States	Large Cities in Mexico
Toronto	New York City	Mexico City
Montreal	Los Angeles	Guadalajara
Vancouver	Chicago	
Calgary	Philadelphia	
Edmonton	Miami	
Ottawa	Dallas	
Quebec City	Boston	
Hamilton	Washington D.C.	
Winnipeg	Detroit	
Kitchener	Houston	

continued

Learning Activity 5.2: Major Urban Centres in North America and the World (continued)

Major Urban Centres in North America



continued

Learning Activity 5.2: Major Urban Centres in North America and the World (continued)

2. Using an atlas, or maps from the Internet, locate and indicate the following major urban centres of the world on the map that follows.



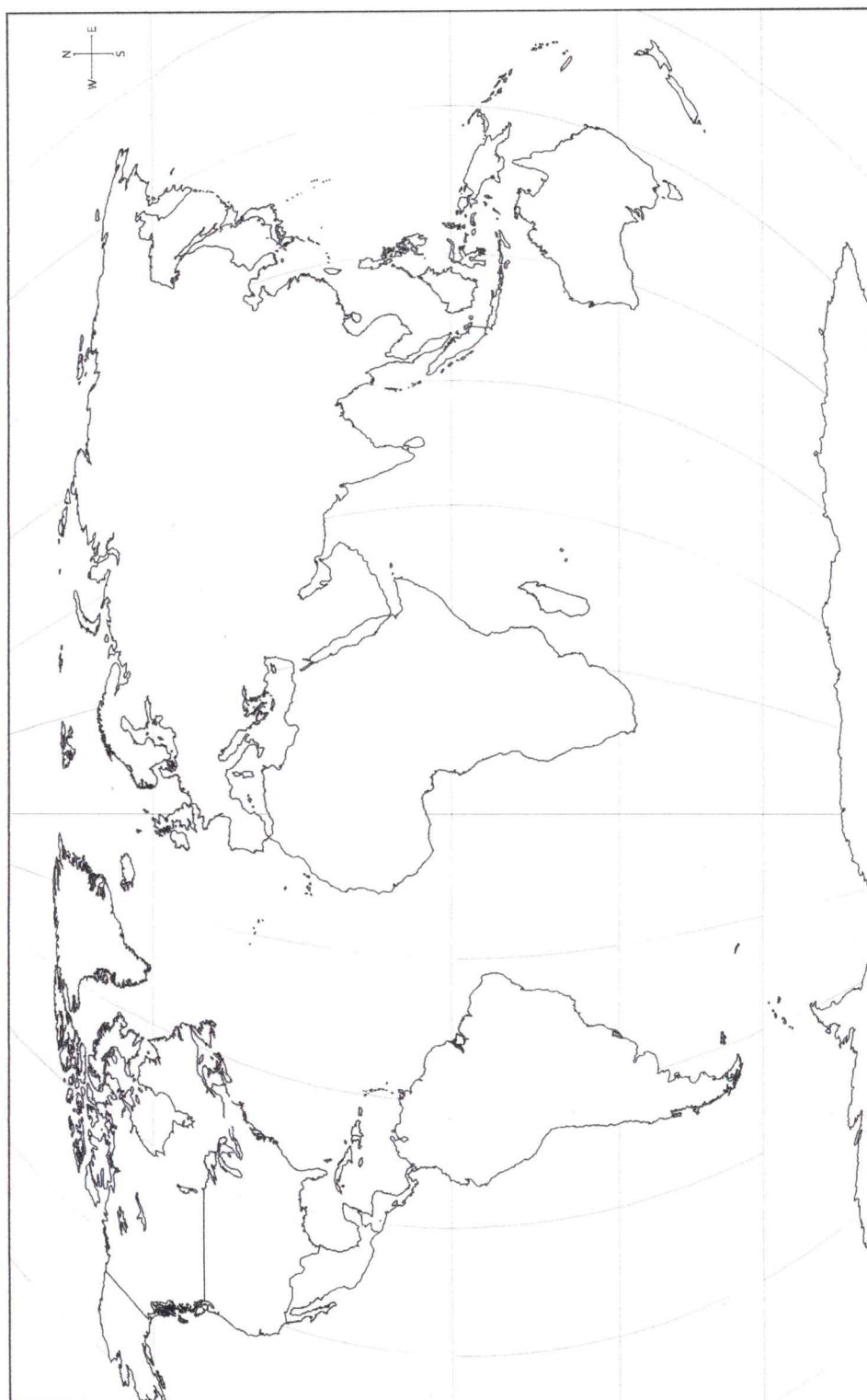
Note: It may be difficult to place these locations on your map. Do your best to place them in the general area of their actual location. Also, remember to keep your map clear and easy to read. This means making labels a uniform size and placing them as close as possible to the location.

Tokyo, Japan	São Paulo, Brazil	Karachi, Pakistan	London, United Kingdom
Delhi, India	Mexico City, Mexico	Istanbul, Turkey	Rome, Italy
Seoul, South Korea	Shanghai, China	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Berlin, Germany
Jakarta, Indonesia	Cairo, Egypt	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Tehran, Iran
Metro Manila, Philippines	Los Angeles, United States of America	Lagos, Nigeria	Johannesburg, South Africa
Mumbai, India	Beijing, China	Paris, France	Sydney, Australia
New York City, United States of America	Moscow, Russia	Chicago, United States of America	Toronto, Canada

continued

Learning Activity 5.2: Major Urban Centres in North America and the World (continued)

Major Urban Centres of the World



continued

Learning Activity 5.2: Major Urban Centres in North America and the World (continued)

3. Choose at least *two* statements below and answer the Gritzner question as indicated.

- a) In the first few years of the 21st century, for the first time in history, urban dwellers outnumbered those living in rural areas. By the year 2025, the global urban population will have more than doubled from 2.4 billion in 1995 to 5 billion.

Gritzner Question: Why There?

- b) Settlers were likely to seek sites for their homes (and cities) close to their key resources.

Gritzner Question: Why There?

- c) There are various types of places where settlements are likely to flourish.

Gritzner Question: What Is Where?

- d) What characteristics do London, New York, and Tokyo possess that make them global cities?

Gritzner Question: Why There?

- e) Global cities have become part of an international system.

Gritzner Question: Why Care?

4. Choose *three* of the following urban centres and describe their function and general location. In other words, is the urban centre administrative (government), defensive, good for trade, good for finance, or good for resources?

- a) Halifax, Nova Scotia
- b) Toronto, Ontario
- c) Thompson, Manitoba
- d) Ottawa, Ontario
- e) Vancouver, British Columbia

