

URBAN POPULATIONS ARE GROWING RAPIDLY

In 1950 the urban population of the world (that's the number of people living in cities) was 751 million. In 2018 it was a massive 4.2 billion!

The 2020 global population was estimated at 7,794 million, with 55% living in urban areas. By 2050 we expect 68% of the global population to live in urban areas.

Africa is still mostly rural, 43% of its population live in urban areas, but the number is increasing at a very high rate. This is mostly due to people moving from rural to urban areas.

MEGACITIES have more than 10 million inhabitants.

There are two megacities in Africa - Lagos and Cairo. By 2030 there are expected to be six or more.

Most of the fastest growing cities are not actually the biggest ones. Most of the fastest growing cities are those with a population of less than one million. Many of these are in Africa, and because they are growing so fast by 2025 Africa is likely to have more than 100 cities with more than a million residents.

City living may be the future for humankind. Cities provide many, many opportunities, but they can also be dangerous, overcrowded, ugly, with dirty air and dirty water. Cities can be a drain on the environment, using up agricultural land and natural habitats, releasing pollution. The food and fuel that feeds a city, not to mention the raw materials and processed goods used in any urban area often travel a long way, in diesel trucks, on ships and aeroplanes. **Read about why this is a bad thing in the Energy & Climate Change booklet.**

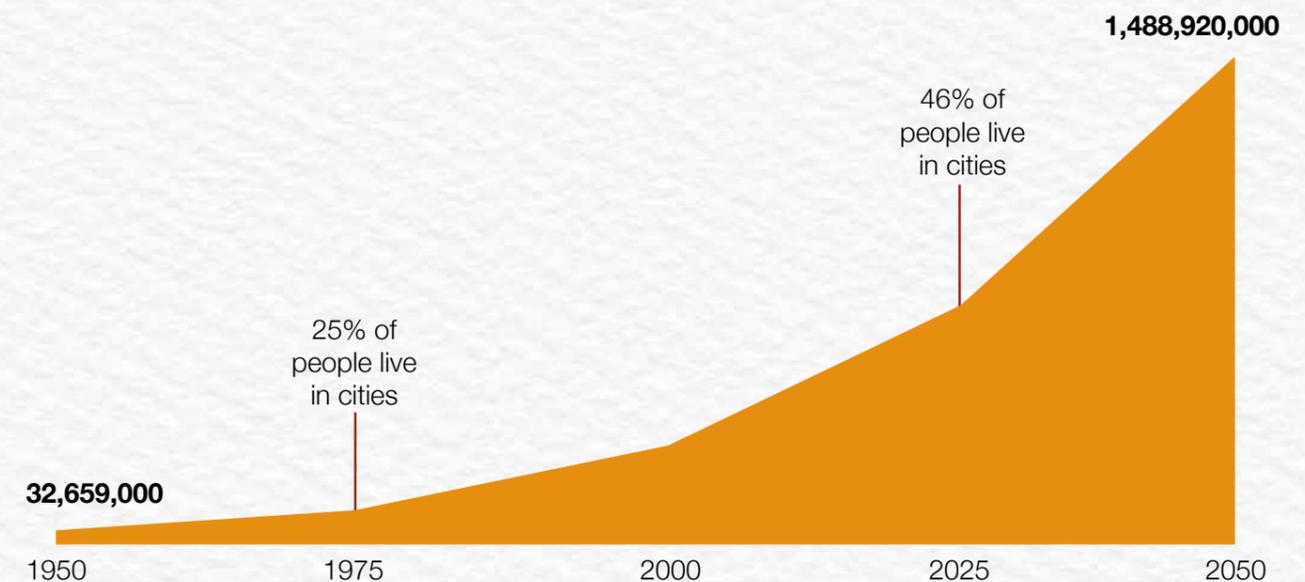
We need to make sure our cities are pleasant to live and work in and kinder to the world around.

All over the world, cities are getting greener: urban populations are growing their own healthy food, using energy from sustainable sources, and making safe green spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Can you think of 10 advantages and 10 disadvantages of living in a city?

Year	Population of Africa	Africa's urban population	%
1950	227,794,000 - Two hundred and twenty seven million, seven hundred and ninety four thousand	32,659,000	14%
1975	414,675,000 -	101,199,000	25%
2000	810,984,000 -	285,998,000	35%
2025	1,508,935,000 -	698,149,000	46%
2050	2,489,275,000 - Two billion, four hundred and eighty nine million, two hundred and seventy five thousand	1,488,920,000	60%

(Data from un.org.wpp)



FUN facts

The world's largest city is Tokyo in Japan. It has a population of 26 million. Tokyo is a megacity. What's the biggest city in your country?