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**National Council for  
Geographic Education**

# *Three for Three*

Week 24, Unit 6

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A SUPPLEMENT TO THE WEEKLY APHG BELL RINGERS SERIES

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# Cities Across the World Topic 6.2



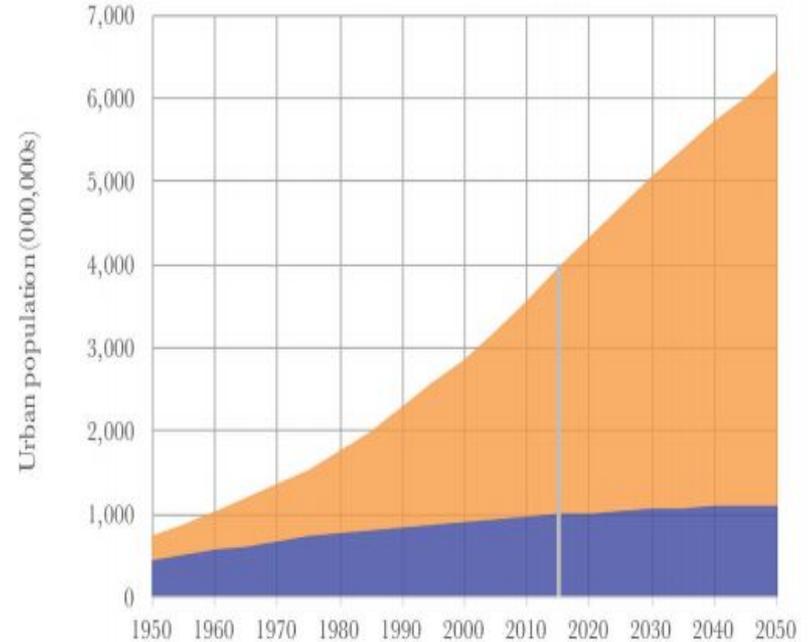
Panama City, Panama top: 1930 bottom: 2009

Increases in the urban population of more developed and less developed countries, 1950-2050



Images via: Skyscraper City, Brian Gratwicke

Compare the top image to the bottom. What does it show about the process of urbanization?



■ More Developed Countries ■ Less Developed Countries ■ 2015

Use the chart to draw three conclusions about urbanization between 1950-2050.

# Cities and Globalization Topic 6.3



World, or global, cities drive globalization and mediate global processes. Examine some of the indicators used to determine whether a city is considered a world city. How does each reflect a city's ability to have global influence?

- ★ number of transnational companies having headquarters in the city
- ★ foreign born population
- ★ number of broadband subscribers
- ★ air & sea freight activity
- ★ number of embassies
- ★ museums
- ★ international organizations

Given these areas, what cities do you think are the top 5 overall?

# *The Size & Distribution of Cities Topic 6.4*



Imagine a large urban settlement in the United States has the following services. Rank them in order from the one you think it would have the most of to the service you think it would have the fewest of.

gas station

grocery store

Sam's Club or Costco

pediatric cardiologist

tutoring service

performing arts hall

Starbucks

amusement park

nail salon

Apple store

Explain your reasoning.

# IDEAS FOR SLIDES

SLIDE 1 source <http://www.atlasofurbanexpansion.org/data> This is an AMAZING resource, especially if you live in one of the featured cities. You could also assign pairs of students a featured city in an LDC and one in an MDC and have them compare the cities. In particular, have them evaluate the challenges associated with rapid urbanization in LDCs vs. MDCs.

SLIDE 2 source <https://www.kearney.com/global-cities/2019> I used Kearney's global cities ranking to prepare this slide. Encourage students to share their answers with a partner. Kearney uses the metrics below to rank cities each year in each of five categories and then to generate an overall ranking.

business activity--transnational companies' HQ, stock exchange, air & sea freight activity  
human capital--foreign born population, international schools, top universities  
information exchange--news agency access, broadband subscribers, freedom of expression  
cultural experience--museums, culinary offerings, international travelers  
political engagement--embassies, political conferences, international organizations

Using Kearney's methodology, the top 5 global cities for 2019,(unchanged from 2018) in descending order are New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, and Hong Kong. After students guess, see if any students were able to guess all 5. What cities did all or most students have on their lists? What cities did few or no students have? Why do they think this is? In particular, point out that their country of origin or residence may strongly influence their rankings. Far fewer Americans would include Hong Kong on their list than would include New York.

alternate source: <https://www.citylab.com/life/2016/10/the-seven-types-of-global-cities-brookings/502994/>

Advanced students can be encouraged to read the two sources above and compare and contrast the sources' findings.

SLIDE 3 Use this slide to discuss the concepts of threshold and range. Ask students to articulate which service they think has the largest threshold and which the shortest range and to explain why.



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