

# Human Impact: Urban Development

**Urban development** occurs when cities grow larger and expand into new areas. Answer the questions below to learn how urban development can impact the environment.



1. The photo on the left shows a river going through Yogyakarta, the home of over 370,000 people in Indonesia. The photo on the right shows a river in an undeveloped area of Southeast Asia. Compare these two photos. What are some ways that urban development changes the local environment?

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2. Use books or online resources to learn about the environmental problems posed by urban development in a particular city. What city are you going to research? It can be anywhere in the world. Include the name of the city, the state or province if appropriate, and the country that it is in.

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3. List some of the environmental problems this city is facing.

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4. Choose one of these problems to research in more depth. Pick the one you think is the most interesting or the most critical for the city. Write the problem below. Why did you pick this problem?

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**Keep going! Answer the questions below.**

**5.** What are some factors that have contributed to the problem you chose in question 4?

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**6.** How does this problem affect the local environment?

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**7.** How does this problem affect the people who live in the city? Consider health effects, economic effects, and the overall impact on quality of life.

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**8.** Is this problem likely to get worse if it is not addressed? Consider how it will affect both the people who live in the city and the local environment. What are some of the future dangers this problem might pose?

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**9.** Propose a solution to this problem. You may pick one that is already being considered or come up with your own solution. What difficulties might people face as they try to implement this solution, and how might they overcome these difficulties?

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