

# 3

## RURAL AND URBAN SETTLEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD

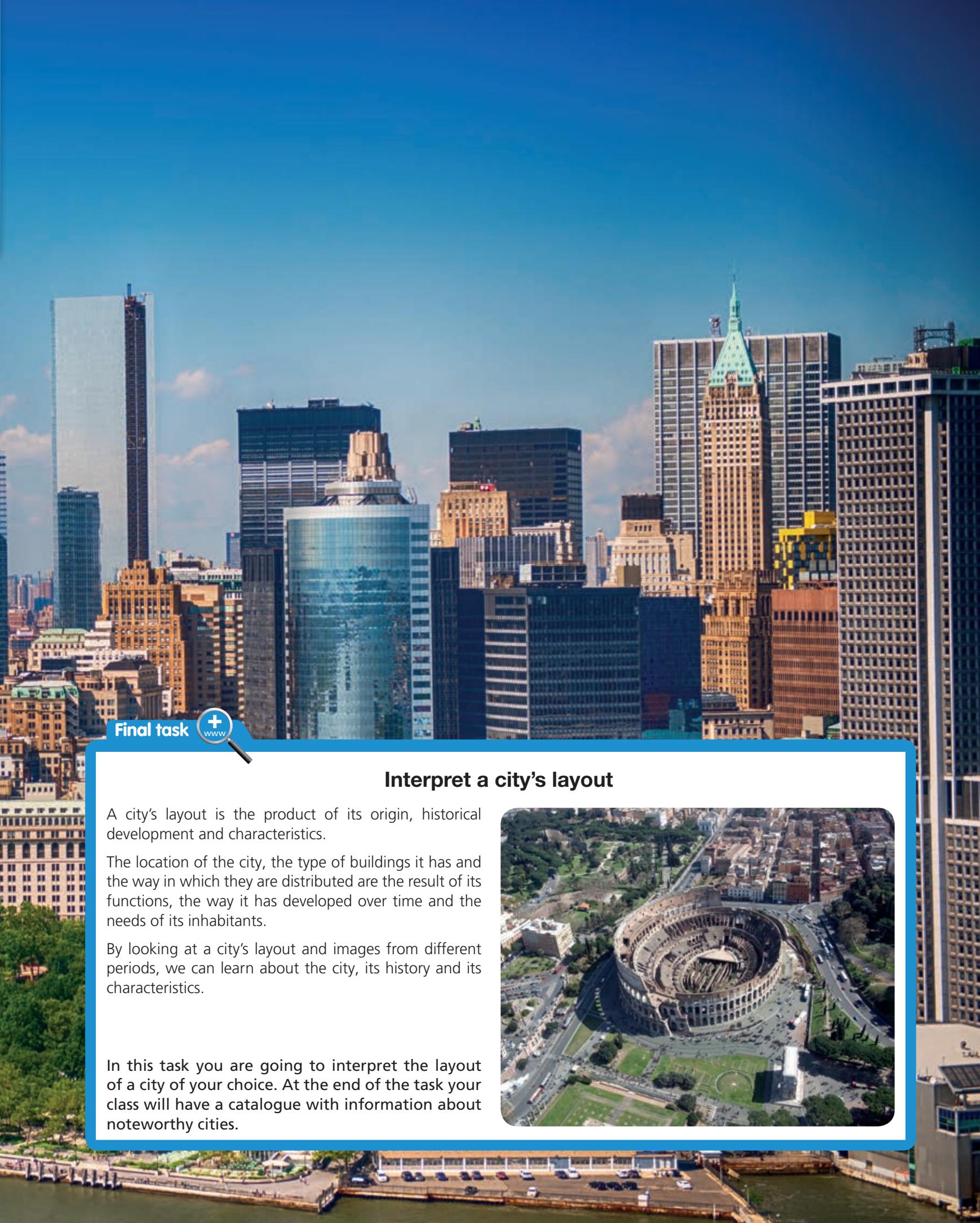
YOU WILL LEARN TO...



- Identify the characteristics of rural and urban settlements.
- Analyse the process of urbanisation based on the layout of a settlement.
- Recognise the problems of city life.



- Which city is shown in this photo? Which country is it in?
- Name two Ancient cities that are currently the capitals of their respective countries.
- Name three types of houses found in rural areas.
- What do you think the main problems of city life are?



**Final task**



## Interpret a city's layout

A city's layout is the product of its origin, historical development and characteristics.

The location of the city, the type of buildings it has and the way in which they are distributed are the result of its functions, the way it has developed over time and the needs of its inhabitants.

By looking at a city's layout and images from different periods, we can learn about the city, its history and its characteristics.

In this task you are going to interpret the layout of a city of your choice. At the end of the task your class will have a catalogue with information about noteworthy cities.



## 1. SETTLEMENT



**Settlement** is the process through which a group of people establishes homes in a particular place, as well as the way in which their homes are **distributed**.

We can distinguish between **rural** and **urban** settlements based on their size and the economic activities that their inhabitants carry out.

### 1.1. Rural and urban settlements

Historically, most of the population was rural, but nowadays more than half of the world's population lives in cities. This figure is likely to rise in the future.

The difference between a rural and an urban settlement varies depending on the country. In Spain a settlement with more than 10 000 inhabitants is considered to be a city, or urban settlement. In other countries, such as Japan, a settlement with more than 20 000 inhabitants is considered to be a city, while in the United States a settlement with more than 2 500 inhabitants is considered to be a city.



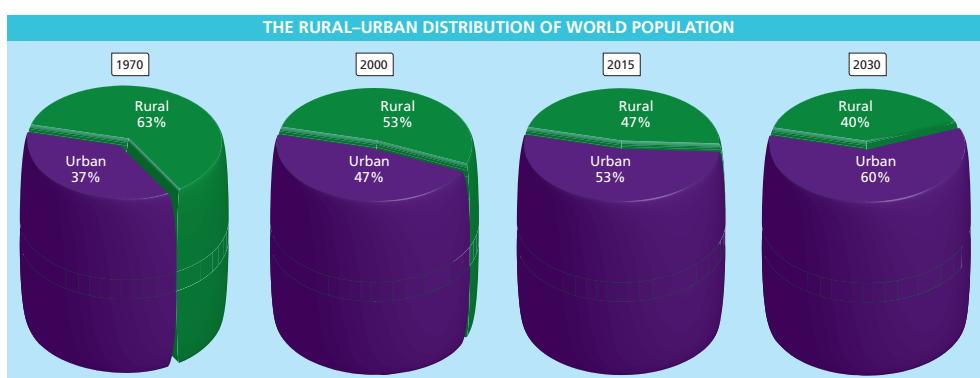
Passau (Germany), at the confluence of the Danube with the Inn and the Ilz

### 1.2. The area around a settlement

The characteristics of the area are decisive in the location of settlements.

As regards the place where a population settles, we can distinguish two types of location.

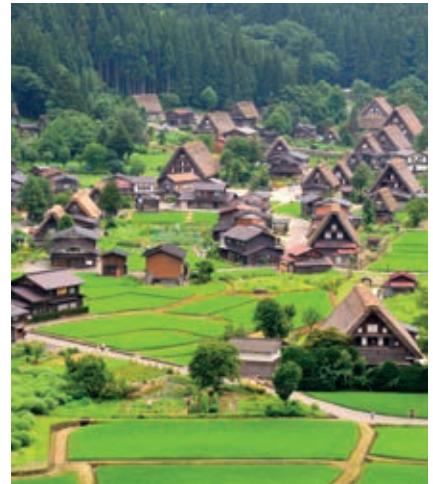
- **Situation:** this refers to a settlement's location in relation to the surrounding area (district, region, country and continent). In the case of cities this is particularly important, since they exert a great influence over the rest of the area in which they are located. Historically, settlements situated in a central location have been the dominant pattern, as this constitutes a meeting point between various regions. Examples include Rome, Madrid, Lisbon, Mexico City, Santiago de Chile and Zaragoza.
- **Site:** this refers to the specific place where a settlement is located. In many cases a settlement's site explains its original function. For example, Rome, Toledo, Cuenca and Lugo are located on high ground because their original function was defensive. Paris, Vienna and Córdoba are next to rivers because they were originally crossing points. London, Buenos Aires, Lisbon and Bilbao are at or close to river mouths because they communicated between the coast and inland regions. Other settlements are on the slopes of valleys in order to avoid occupying fertile agricultural lands.



### 1.3. Settlements and the environment

Rural settlements are usually integrated with and take advantage of the surrounding environment. However, urban settlements transform and sometimes exhaust the surrounding environment.

- **Rural settlements** are strongly linked to the surrounding environment, which they take advantage of and transform according to their needs and level of development. They are integrated with their surroundings, use materials available locally for building (earth, stone, wood and even ice), and buildings are adapted to their particular use: either as homes or workplaces.
- **Urban settlements** have larger populations than rural settlements. They occupy more space and make more demands on the surrounding environment, which they also transform radically. For example, forests and marshes are destroyed, rivers are diverted into canals, and there is air and water pollution.



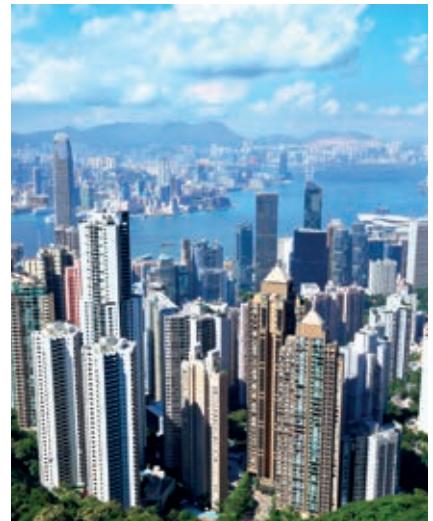
Rural settlement (Japan)

### 1.4. Settlements and economic activity

The economic activities carried out by the population affect a settlement, including its form and the types of buildings it has.

This relationship is more limited in rural settlements than in urban settlements. This is because in cities there is a diverse range of economic activities and these are usually less related to the natural environment. As a result, urban settlements tend to be more uniform. However, we can identify various types of rural settlements.

- **Arable farming zones:** in areas of extensive agriculture, such as those with cereal, olive and grapevine cultivation, settlement is usually concentrated in large towns or villages. Areas of market gardening and irrigated agriculture generally have more dispersed settlement, with homes situated on the plots where crops are grown.
- **Livestock farming zones:** settlement is usually dispersed among family farms. In some places, such as in the African Savannah, there are small, circular villages, protected by thorny hedges to defend the herds from predators.
- **Fishing villages:** these settlements are located around ports where boats are docked and fish is sold. Nowadays these settlements are often very big and have diversified economies (for example they engage in tourism and in the canning industry).
- **Mining towns:** these were originally located next to the mines, but many have been abandoned due to high levels of pollution and the dangers of mining.



Urban settlement (Hong Kong, China)

#### Remember

1. How is the location of a settlement influenced by the characteristics of the area surrounding it?
2. Name and describe the different types of rural settlements.

#### Apply

3. Look at the photos above. Which type of settlement best conserves the natural environment? Why? What is the relationship between urban settlements and the surrounding environment?

#### Analyse

4. Burundi's population is almost 90% rural, while Qatar's population is almost 100% urban. Where are these two countries located and how do their locations help explain the different rural–urban population distribution?

#### Evaluate

5. Write an essay on your town or city and include the following elements: whether it is rural or urban, its site and situation, the main economic activities and how the settlement has affected the surrounding environment.

## 2. RURAL SETTLEMENTS

Rural settlements around the world have historically been an important part of culture and economic activity.

### 2.1. Rural houses around the world

Rural houses are usually used both as **homes** and **workplaces**, and they frequently have outbuildings such as barns, stables and storehouses. They are usually built using materials from the surrounding area and are adapted to the climate.

Rural houses vary depending on the part of the world in which they are located.

■ **Forests and rainforests:** houses in these regions are usually made of wood, such as the **isbas** or cabins of Siberia, which are also found in Canada and Finland. Alpine houses in the mountains of Europe are made of a combination of wood and stone.

In tropical rainforests stilt houses are built. These are dwellings that are raised on stilts or posts in order to protect them from moisture. In Central Africa the Pygmies build small huts which serve as temporary homes using branches and leaves.

■ **Savannah and steppes:** these are areas with very few trees where the main economic activity is nomadic livestock farming. The main type of dwellings are tents made from animal skin. Some examples include the **yurts** of the Siberian and Mongolian steppes and the now rare Native American **tepee**.

■ **Dry climate zones:** houses are adapted to the lack of rain and great variations in temperature. **Mud huts** and **adobe huts** (made of straw and mud) are common in the Maghreb, the African Savannah, Central and South Asia, and dry zones of America. In Spain these types of houses are found in Aragón, Castilla y León and the Comunitat Valenciana, and are known as **barracas**.

Cave houses are carved into rock and are **isothermal**<sup>1</sup>. They are common in North Africa (Tunisia), and in Spain they are typical of Granada (Guadix), Zamora and León (Valle del Esla), Madrid (Valle de Tajuña) and Albacete (Valle del Júcar).

In desert zones tents made of fabric or skin are used by the Tuaregs in the Sahara and the Bedouins in the Arabian Peninsula.

■ **Temperate zones:** houses are usually made of stone, sometimes combined with wood, bricks or adobe, and have tiled or slate roofs. This type of house is typical in Mediterranean and Atlantic countries. In Spain examples include the **masía** (Cataluña and Aragón), the **cortijo** (Andalucía) and outbuildings such as the **hórreo** (Asturia and Galicia).

■ **Cold zones:** houses are adapted to the extreme cold of the Arctic Circle and to the lack of available materials. Examples include the Inuit igloo (made of ice) and the reindeer-skin tents of Lapland.



Wooden isba (Russia)



Cave house (Matmata, Tunisia)



Reindeer-skin tent (Lapland, Finland)

<sup>1</sup> **isothermal:** maintains a constant temperature

## RURAL SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

Rural settlements group together houses and outbuildings in rural areas, and are smaller than cities. Their inhabitants organise and develop this space, forming a municipality. There are three types of rural settlement, based on their different shapes.

- **Dispersed settlements:** houses are dispersed across the area, either because of the economic activities carried out or because the land is hilly. This type of settlement is found in mountainous areas where livestock farming predominates, in areas of market gardening such as Valencia and Murcia, and in areas of intensive agriculture.
- **Concentrated settlements:** houses are grouped together to form a village or town. There are various models, depending on the pattern formed by the houses.

### Linear settlements

Houses are built along a road, river or railway line. This is the case with the villages along the Camino de Santiago, in the Great Plains of the United States and Canada and in tropical rainforest zones.



Hermigua, Gomera (Spain)

### Nucleated settlements

The layout is organised around a central point, usually the main square. From this point the streets follow either a radial pattern or a circular pattern. The latter is usually the case in Medieval European settlements.



Eguisheim (France)

- **Interspersed settlements:** this is a combination of the dispersed and concentrated models. It has a main nucleus, various smaller nuclei and houses dispersed throughout the surrounding area. This type of settlement is found in hilly livestock farming areas, such as Galicia and Cantabria, and in Alpine regions.

In general concentrated settlements predominate throughout the world, although their size can vary significantly. The concentrated model allows for a better provision of services such as schools, shops, local government and healthcare.

### Remember

6. Define these terms: concentrated settlement, dispersed settlement, interspersed settlement.
7. What is the relationship between rural houses and the surrounding environment?

### Evaluate

8. What do you think the advantages and disadvantages of cave houses are?

### Create

9. Many towns and villages along the Camino de Santiago are linear. Look at a map of this route and write a short essay in your notebook including:
  - why the settlements follow this pattern.
  - the function of these towns and villages for pilgrims.
  - examples of towns and villages whose names are related to the Camino de Santiago.

### 3. URBANISATION



In Ancient History, certain cities were important economic and cultural centres. Nowadays we recognise these cities as the origin of our civilisation.

Since the Industrial Revolution, cities have developed, grown in number and evolved to become the cities we know today.

#### 3.1. Preindustrial cities

In general, cities before the Industrial Revolution were smaller in size than they are today, but they already carried out many of their current functions. They governed the surrounding area and were political, religious and commercial centres.

Throughout history cities have emerged in different periods.

**Ancient History:** the cities were the centre of civilisation and the capitals of their respective states. The oldest cities were in Mesopotamia (Ur, Babylonia and Nineveh), Egypt (Memphis and Thebes) and Lebanon (Tyre and Sidon).

Later on, Greek civilisation developed in Athens and Corinth during the Classical Period, and in Alexandria during the Hellenistic Period.

Rome was the centre of a huge empire, which also established a number of other cities: Cologne, London, Belgrade and Byzantium (modern-day Istanbul). Examples in Spain include Mérida, Italica, Tarragona, Lugo, Zaragoza and León.

**The Middle Ages:** before the 13th century, the Muslim cities such as Baghdad, Damascus, Tunisia, Cairo and Córdoba were the most significant and influential. Except for Paris and Constantinople (Byzantium), Christian cities had small populations and were not important until the 14th century. Good examples are the Italian cities of Florence, Siena, Pisa and Venice. These cities were dense settlements with narrow streets, small squares and no urban planning.

**The Early Modern Age:** the discovery of America and increased trade caused European cities to expand. Examples included Lisbon, Sevilla, Amsterdam, Brussels, Antwerp and Ghent. Spain took a model for a planned colonial city to America. Colonial cities had straight roads and a large central square called the *plaza de armas*. Examples of colonial cities include Mexico City, Lima, Cuzco, Quito, Santiago de Chile, Santo Domingo and Cartagena de Indias.



#### Important

Cities are identified by:

- the number of inhabitants (more than 10 000 people in Spain).
- their size and the space they occupy.
- the economic activities carried out there (industry, construction and services).
- the types of buildings (high-density residential areas, tall buildings, blocks of flats, large community buildings).
- the area they govern (this can be a district, region or the whole country).



Medieval city (Siena, Italy)



Colonial city (Cuzco, Peru)

### 3.2. Cities in the 19th and 20th centuries

The Industrial Revolution led to the rapid growth of cities in Europe and North America.

During the 19th century cities were expanded and new suburbs known in Spain as **ensanches**<sup>2</sup> were created. In Paris, Baron Hausmann designed and oversaw the expansion of the city and the construction of new wide avenues. This project served as a model for other cities such as Vienna and Barcelona. In the 20th century **satellite towns**<sup>3</sup>, also known as new towns, emerged.

The development of cities varied in different parts of the world during this period.

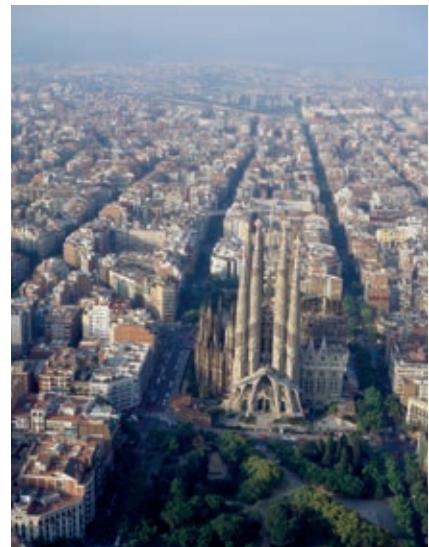
- The **United States** received large numbers of immigrants from Europe and China. The already-established port cities on the East Coast expanded (New York and Boston), and newer cities emerged, such as Chicago, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles.
- **Central and South America** experienced a period of rapid urban growth in the late 19th century. This was caused by the arrival of migrants from rural areas and immigrants from Spain and Italy. They settled in cities such as Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Havana and Rio de Janeiro.
- The largest cities in the world developed in **Asia**, particularly in Japan (Tokyo), China (Beijing and Shanghai) and India (Mumbai and New Delhi).
- In **Australia** most of the population is concentrated in planned cities, such as Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.
- **Africa** has some very old cities, such as Cairo and Alexandria. There is also unplanned **urban sprawl**<sup>4</sup> consisting of **shanty towns**<sup>5</sup> around large cities such as Lagos and Kinshasa.

### 3.3. Cities in the 21st century

Nowadays, the cities that are expanding tend to be those with **political functions**, or where **trade** or **technological development** is important. Examples include Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait on the Persian Gulf and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. Trade and tourism have led to the expansion of pre-existing cities such as Singapore, Las Vegas and Miami.

Cities in developed countries are either maintaining or increasing their activities and populations. However, there is also a desire to improve the quality of life in these cities, which has led to the introduction of broad urban renewal programmes, especially in industrial areas and in the rundown city-centre neighbourhoods of cities such as Pittsburgh, London and Bilbao.

In the immediate future cities are likely to continue to expand, both in terms of population and in terms of the diversification and importance of the economic activities carried out in them.



Ensanche de Barcelona

<sup>2</sup> **ensanche:** new suburb characterised by a regular layout with wide, straight avenues

<sup>3</sup> **satellite town:** smaller urban nucleus located close to a large city; it is often mainly residential and specific industrial or commercial activities are carried out in it.

<sup>4</sup> **urban sprawl:** uncontrolled and unplanned spread of urban development into nearby areas

<sup>5</sup> **shanty town:** neighbourhood containing small dwellings made of waste material or of very poor quality, and which are often not fit for human habitation

#### Remember

- 10.** Define satellite town, urban sprawl and shanty town.

#### Apply

- 11.** Look at the photos of Cuzco (Peru) and Siena (Italy). Compare the layout of these two cities.

- 12.** Look at the photo of Barcelona. What features can you see?

#### Create

- 13.** Choose three historical cities in your autonomous community and describe:

- two buildings or monuments in each.
- the importance of these cities in the past.
- their principal function nowadays.

## 4. URBAN LAYOUT AND ITS DEVELOPMENT



The layout of a town or city shows the spatial distribution of all of its elements (streets, squares, neighbourhoods and green zones). It is also the product of that town or city's development over time.

### 4.1. Traditional urban layouts

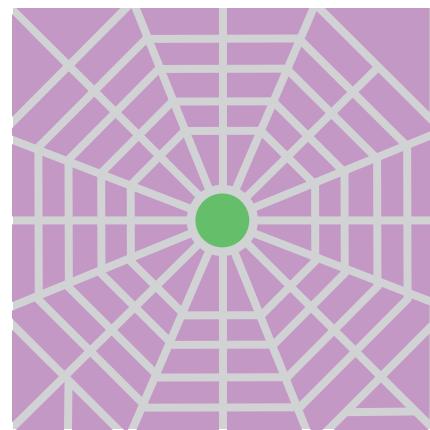
There are three main types of urban layouts.

- **The orthogonal grid layout:** this type of layout has a grid of straight streets that cross one another at right angles and form square **blocks**. This layout first appeared in Ancient Greece (Miletus) and it was extended throughout the Roman Empire. For example, it was used in León and Mérida. Spain exported the orthogonal grid layout to its American colonies in the 16th century, and in the 18th century it was used in cities such as Aranjuez and La Carolina. From the 19th century onwards this layout was the model used for urban extensions (*ensanches*) and new towns and cities. This layout facilitates transport and communications, and also allows for the unlimited expansion of the town or city. It is the most commonly used urban layout in America.
- **The circular or radiocentric layout:** this type of layout resembles a spider's web. It consists of a series of rings, with the streets as axes that begin at the centre of the rings. The blocks become larger as we move further away from the centre, and they contain other networks of streets. This layout is often found in walled cities or towns built on flat land, as the circular arrangement facilitates the town or city's defence. Examples of this layout include Moscow, Milan and Vitoria.
- **The irregular layout:** this type of layout is typical of Medieval and Muslim cities. There is a dense grid of winding streets, with no open spaces or straight avenues. This layout often emerged in places that were easy to defend, either because they are next to a river or on high ground. Examples in Spain include Toledo, Cuenca, Granada and Sevilla. In North Africa, Rabat, Tunis and Cairo are good examples, and in Asia Jerusalem and Damascus have this layout.

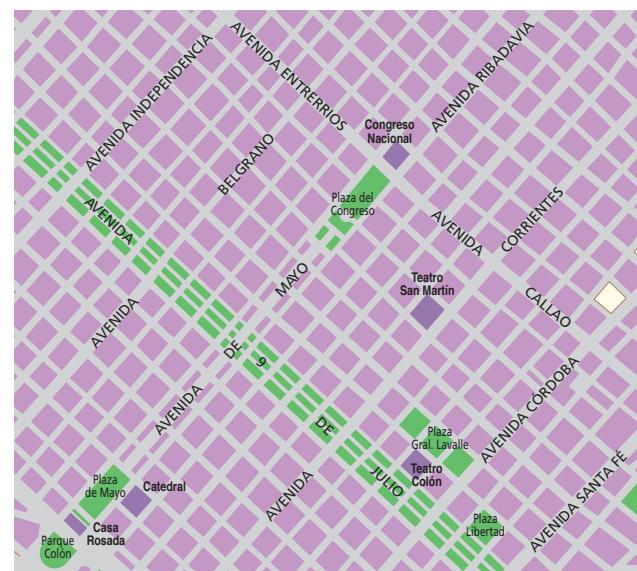
### 4.2. Today's cities

Today's cities have expanded their area and changed some of their functions.

- **Expanding outwards:** in the mid-20th century **suburbanisation** began. Cities grew beyond their historical centres and original suburbs (*ensanches*), and new **suburbs** were established on the **outskirts**. The character of these suburbs varies: they can consist mainly of residential housing estates containing single-family homes or blocks of flats, industrial or commercial zones, areas for playing sport, parks and also shanty towns.
- **Internal transformation:** city centres began to deteriorate as a result of suburbanisation: wealthy residents left the centre to live in the suburbs. In recent years almost all European and American cities have regenerated their historical centres, renovating buildings and pedestrianising some streets. City centres have taken on new functions: commercial (specialised and luxury shops, shopping centres), governmental (municipal, regional and national government buildings), tourism-related (monuments, restaurants and hotels), and business – the **Central Business District**, with its banks and offices.



The radiocentric layout



The orthogonal grid layout of Buenos Aires

## THE IMPRINT OF HISTORY ON THE CITY



Córdoba

A city's past and its historical importance are reflected in its buildings and monuments. These represent its cultural heritage and its identity. The past is also reflected in the city's layout. Two areas of the city are especially important.

**The historical city centre** The original site of the city explains its origins, characteristics, historical buildings and the layout of its streets.

Many historical city centre districts were progressively abandoned over a long period of time and their buildings deteriorated because they did not meet the new needs of the city's inhabitants. Examples include palaces, cathedrals, churches, convents and even historical monuments.

Nowadays, people are more aware of the value of these buildings and many have been renovated, making them more accessible and converting them into symbols of the city and tourist attractions. This has been the case in cities such as Rome, Florence, Córdoba, Sevilla, Barcelona, Vienna, Prague, Athens and Istanbul.

**The original suburbs (ensanches)** The original area of urban expansion does not have the same historical importance as the city centre, but these suburbs exemplify the bourgeoisie's important role in urban planning, as well as the dominant architectural styles of the time.

These suburbs are generally upper and middle-class residential areas that include mansions, museums and unique buildings. Good examples can be found in Barcelona, which has numerous examples of Modernist architecture, including the Sagrada Família Church and Parc Güell. Other examples can be found in Paris (Place Charles de Gaulle, the Champs-Élysées and the Eiffel Tower), Rome, Berlin, New York, Boston, Budapest and Madrid.

Some areas of these suburbs, as well as maintaining their residential and commercial functions, specialise in luxury retail, especially in fashion and IT.

### Remember

14. What do we call the business area of a city centre? What is suburbanisation and what effect did it have on city centres?

### Understand

15. Listen and write which type of layout is being described.  
16. Describe the history of the orthogonal grid layout and explain why it has been so popular.

### Apply

17. Look at the plan of the centre of Buenos Aires. What type of layout is it? Why was this layout adopted there? When and where did this layout originate?

### Analyse

18. Look at the photo of Córdoba. Describe the site of the city and its layout. Why does Córdoba have this layout?

## 5. CITY LIFE



Life in most major cities is fairly similar, although there are differences between developed countries and less-developed countries.

Workers in cities have similar timetables and travel from their homes to their offices every day. This is called **commuting**.

**Developed countries:** cities are dominated by tall buildings, with skyscrapers in the Central Business District and blocks of flats in the rest of the city, thereby concentrating a large population in a limited space. In the suburbs there are residential housing estates, shopping centres and transport hubs that connect the city with the surrounding area. **Tertiary-sector<sup>6</sup>** activities predominate, although there are also secondary-sector industries in the suburbs and on the outskirts of these cities.

In the city centre public transport is most common (underground trains, buses and trams), whereas in residential areas private transport (cars) predominates, producing high levels of pollution and traffic congestion. Cities in developed countries provide their inhabitants with a full range of services: governmental, educational, health, commercial, recreational and leisure, sports, cultural, insurance, transport and financial services.

**Less-developed countries:** in general, these cities have grown and expanded rapidly in recent years, with little urban planning and great socioeconomic inequalities that can be seen in housing provision. There are luxury residential areas and blocks of flats next to shanty towns inhabited by poor people who have migrated from rural areas and who are largely unskilled and unemployed.

The population living in residential areas has access to the same services as the inhabitants of cities in developed countries. However, the shanty towns and other marginalised areas often lack basic infrastructure or have poor supplies of water and electricity, and educational, healthcare and public-safety provision is usually substandard.

In these cities both tertiary and secondary-sector activities are carried out.

<sup>6</sup>**tertiary sector:** provision of services, such as transport, healthcare, tourism and retail



Dharavi suburb (Mumbai, India)



Opera House (Sydney, Australia)

## 5.1. The major cities of the world

Cities with more than 10 million inhabitants are known as **megacities**. Nowadays there are 29 megacities around the world, but the number will increase, especially in Asia, where the urban population is growing rapidly.

- **Europe:** Paris, Moscow, London and Istanbul (between Europe and Asia).
- **America:** in **North America**, Mexico City, New York, Los Angeles and Chicago; in **South America**, São Paulo, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro.
- **Asia:** Tokyo (the largest city in the world, with more than 37 million people), Osaka, Guangzhou, Mumbai, Shanghai, Seoul, Delhi, Jakarta, Beijing, Dhaka, Kolkata, Karachi, Bangkok, Manila and Tehran.
- **Africa:** Cairo, Lagos and Johannesburg.
- **Australia:** Australia has no megacities as the country has a relatively small population. The largest city is Sydney, with 4.5 million people.



Shanghai (China)

## 5.2. Spain's major cities

In Spain 77% of the population is urban. The largest cities are Madrid (3.2 million inhabitants, or 6 million including the surrounding area) and Barcelona (1.6 million inhabitants, or 4.5 million including the surrounding area). Four other cities have more than half a million people: Valencia (786 000), Sevilla (697 000), Zaragoza (666 000) and Málaga (567 000). Although Bilbao has 347 000 inhabitants, this figure is 900 000 including the population of the area surrounding the ria. However, medium-sized cities predominate in Spain (those with between 50 000 and 500 000 inhabitants). Examples include Vitoria, Pamplona, Segovia, Santander, Alicante and Palma de Mallorca.

### Remember

19. What are the characteristics of city life in developed and less-developed countries?
20. What is a megacity? What are some megacities in Europe? What type of city predominates in Spain?

### Understand

21. Listen and answer the questions.

### Evaluate

22. Look at the photo of Shanghai and answer the questions.
  - a) Describe the buildings.
  - b) Is this city in a developed, developing or less-developed country? Why?
  - c) Would you like to live in this city? Why?

## 6. URBAN PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS



Cities have many problems, but solutions to these problems are also available.

### 6.1. Urban expansion and the environment

Urban expansion seems to be unstoppable for the foreseeable future.

These are some of the consequences of urban expansion.

- **Occupation and destruction of the land:** the space occupied by large cities continues to increase, with some of these cities merging to form a continuous urban belt, or **conurbation**. For example, between Boston and Washington D.C. there is a conurbation that is 600 km long, containing a series of large and medium-sized cities with a total of 50 million inhabitants. These large conurbations consume large amounts of water, energy and food, as well as requiring large amounts of wood and stone for building. This puts a lot of pressure on the environment and can exhaust it.
- **Pollution:** cities often have high levels of pollution and produce a lot of heat. This is caused by vehicles, industry and heating systems, and is worsened by tall buildings, as these block the flow of air currents that would otherwise reduce pollution levels. Air pollution is bad for people's health. In addition, cities produce greenhouse gases which increase global warming.
- **Solutions:** city councils have taken measures to reduce pollution, and also carry out activities designed to regenerate urban spaces and improve the environment: water purification, closing down industries that produce pollution, creating parks, gardens and other green spaces, regenerating landfill sites, cleaning up polluted spaces, educating the public about taking care of the environment, creating pedestrian zones, and encouraging the use of public transport and electric vehicles in the city.



Important

#### Urbanisation

*Urbanisation has brought growth and development [...] However, it has not been able to provide the solutions to the many problems it has produced, such as urban sprawl, traffic congestion, pollution, the emission of greenhouse gases, increased urban poverty, segregation, greater inequality and other negative consequences. All of these problems are produced by a model of urbanisation that is not sustainable.*

Habitat Report III, UN, 2014



Air pollution



Urban motorway network (Shanghai, China)

## 6.2. Social and cultural diversity

Economic and cultural differences between social classes are greater in cities than in rural areas.

Inhabitants of urban areas usually live in neighbourhoods that reflect their level of wealth, professional status and social class.

Wealthier people live in residential areas with more green spaces, larger and more comfortable houses, and better transport and services.

Less wealthy people live in neighbourhoods with blocks of flats, smaller houses, fewer green areas and high population density.

The arrival of immigrants has brought greater cultural diversity to the cities. Migration has connected many countries with other societies and cultures. Large cities in the developed countries of Europe, Asia and America have become meeting points for people with different cultures, languages and ethnicities. Nowadays urban societies are **multicultural** and **multiethnic**.

In cities there are also sometimes tensions and instances of discrimination against people of different origins or ethnic groups. This is called **xenophobia**<sup>7</sup> or **racism**<sup>8</sup>.

## 6.3. Social changes and conflicts

Economic and social changes often take place in cities because they contain a high concentration of people. In addition, the centres of power (government), universities (which bring together large numbers of young people) and the most influential sections of the media are located in the cities. There are also various industries and companies that employ thousands of people. As a result, protests relating to the economy, society and politics are common in cities.



An urban protest

### Remember

**23.** Define racism and xenophobia.

### Understand

**24.** Look at the photo of a protest. Why is this type of event common in cities?

### Evaluate

**25.** Read the text on page 56 and answer the questions in your notebook.

a) What problems are described in the text?

b) Write a short essay suggesting measures that could help to solve these problems.

## 6.4. The city as engine of progress

Cities can be considered as engines of progress in various ways.

- **Training and innovation:** universities and research and innovation centres (linked to the government or to big companies) are usually located in cities.
- **Organisational capacity:** historically, cities have been the reference points around which the rest of the country is organised. Nowadays large cities have global influence, because the political and economic decisions taken and the events that take place in them have ramifications that affect the whole continent, or even the entire world.
- **Employment:** in cities there are many jobs and opportunities for professional development. This is because large companies and key industries are located there. As a result, cities attract people who want to improve their working conditions and progress in their careers.
- **Quality of life:** cities offer a wide variety of services (transport and communications, healthcare, education and culture). As a result, people move to cities from other parts of the country, or even from other countries, looking for work, training and a better quality of life.



Shopping centre in Toronto (Canada)



### Important

#### Cities and their opportunities

*Cities can be extremely efficient. It is easier to provide water and sanitation services to large numbers of people living close together. It is also easier to have access to health, education and other social and cultural services. However, as cities grow, the cost of meeting people's basic needs and the pressure on the surrounding environment and natural resources also increases.*

*Desarrollo urbano,  
World Bank  
(Translated)*

#### Remember

26. In what ways are cities engines of progress?

#### Understand

27. Read *Cities and their opportunities* and answer the questions in your notebook.
- Why is it easier to provide services in cities?
  - What problems occur when a city grows?

#### Apply

28. Look at the photo. What aspects of the city as an engine of progress can you see?

#### Create

29. Choose a large city in a developed country somewhere in the world. Look for information on the Internet and write a profile of it, including:
- the number of universities and research centres based there.
  - the names of important industries and large companies based there.
  - the number of migrants and immigrants who have moved there in recent years.

## SETTLEMENT

- Settlement is the process through which a group of people establishes homes in a particular place, as well as the way in which their homes are distributed. Settlements can be either **rural** or **urban**, depending on their size and the economic activities carried out there.
- Historically the majority of the population has been rural, but today more than half of the world's population lives in cities.
- The specific place where a settlement is located is called its **site**, and its location in relation to the surrounding area is called its **situation**.



Fishing village (Norway)

### Rural settlements

- Rural houses are often both **homes** and **workplaces**.
- A **town** or **village** is a settlement that is smaller than a city. It is situated in a rural area and contains homes and outbuildings. Different types of rural settlement include: concentrated (linear or nucleated), dispersed and interspersed.
- Rural settlements are closely linked to the **natural environment** (building materials usually come from the surrounding environment) and to the economic activities carried out in rural areas.



Irregular layout (Jerusalem, Israel)

### Urban layout

- The layout of a city shows the spatial distribution of all of its elements and is a product of its development over time. The main types of urban layout are **orthogonal grid**, **circular** (or **radiocentric**) and **irregular**.
- Cities have three main areas: the **historical city centre**, the **original suburbs** (*ensanches*) and the **new suburbs** or **outskirts**.

### City life

- Cities in developed countries are very similar to one another. They generally have tall buildings, good infrastructure and high-quality services.
- Cities in less-developed countries have greater socioeconomic inequalities, lower quality public services and residential areas next to **shanty towns**.
- Large cities with more than 10 million inhabitants are called **megacities**.
- Spain has mainly medium-sized cities.

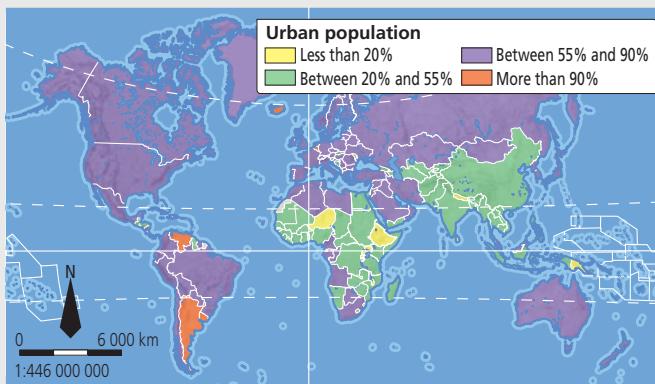
### Urban problems and their solutions

- Cities have positive and negative effects on the environment. They reduce the amount of land available and cause pollution. However, cities have also taken measures to reduce their impact on the environment.
- There are greater economic and cultural differences between social classes in cities.
- Economic and social changes often occur in cities because they contain a high concentration of people.
- Cities are engines of progress with regards to training, research and development, organisational capacity, employment and quality of life.

### Urbanisation

- **Preindustrial cities** were smaller than modern cities but they carried out the same functions: governmental, cultural, political, religious and commercial.
- **Cities in the 19th and 20th centuries** expanded, creating new suburbs and satellite towns.
- Nowadays, cities are developing due to new businesses, technology and political functions.

**30.** Look at the map and answer the questions.



- Why does the majority of the population live in large cities?
- Do you think this is beneficial or harmful to rural areas? Why?

**31.** Are these sentences true or false? Correct the false ones in your notebook.

- Adobe huts are made of stone and wood.
- The site is the specific place where a settlement is located.
- The cities established by Spaniards in America are called colonial cities.
- Stilt houses are found in urban areas.
- The radiocentric layout is also known as the orthogonal grid layout.
- In linear settlements, houses are built along a road or river.
- Large cities are integrated with their natural surroundings.

**32.** Look at the photo and answer the questions.



Monteriggioni (Siena)

- Is this a village or a city? Why?
- Is this a dispersed or nucleated settlement? Why?
- What evidence of this settlement's history can we see?

**33.** Match the rural houses to the correct environment.

Igloo	
Masía	
Stilt house	
Barraca	
Cortijo	Forest or rainforest
Yurt	Plains or steppes
Isba	Dry climate
Tepee	Temperate climate
Cave house	Cold climate
Adobe hut	
Tent	
Hórreo	

**34.** Look at this plan and answer the questions.



- What type of layout does this settlement have?
- What type of relief is this layout generally associated with? Why?
- Why was this layout used?
- Where do the streets begin?
- Name three cities that have this layout.

**35.** India currently has a population of 1 314 million, 32% of which lives in rural areas. Use this information to answer the questions.

- What percentage of the Indian population is urban?
- What are some of the problems that the growing urban population could cause in India?
- How will the environment be affected?
- Find out the names of the five most important cities in India, and their current populations.



36. Copy and complete the table in your notebook.

Settlement	Rural	Urban
Linear	X	
Satellite towns		
Outskirts		
Dispersed		
Original suburbs (ensanches)		
Cortijo		
Layout		
Skyscrapers		
11 000 inhabitants		
Interspersed		

37. Look at the photo of apartment blocks in Hong Kong and answer the questions.



- a) What are the advantages of this type of building? Explain your answer.
- b) Why are most of the buildings in Hong Kong so tall?
- c) What are some of the disadvantages of living in this type of building?
- d) What is another name for this type of building?

38. Read the text and answer the questions.

Central and South America have culturally diverse populations, especially in rural areas. However, studies predict that by 2050 only 11% of the population will be living in rural areas.

- a) How will this change affect the cultural diversity of the population?
- b) How will this change affect agriculture and food production?
- c) What will happen to biodiversity?

39. Read the text and write an essay analysing the contribution of rural areas to society.

#### Elderly people in rural and urban societies

The rural population carries out a service to the rest of society that is often ignored in our day-to-day lives, a service to which elderly people contribute greatly. Through its presence the rural population protects the land, the natural environment and a large proportion of our cultural and architectural heritage, all of which would otherwise be abandoned.

**María Ángeles DURÁN**  
CSIC, Madrid  
(Translated)

40. Look at the photo of Tokyo, which is the largest city in the world and has more than 37 million inhabitants. Explain what you think the advantages and disadvantages of living in this city are.



41. Copy and complete the table showing the advantages and disadvantages of living in a rural area.

Advantages	Disadvantages

## 3

# INTERPRET A CITY'S LAYOUT

How many cities have you visited? You probably used city plans when you visited these places to help you get around. City plans show a city's layout, as well as helping you to not get lost. A city's layout tells us about its origin, evolution and characteristics. In this task you are going to interpret a city's layout.



In a group or individually

## MATERIALS

- Notebook
- Plans and photos of your chosen city (historical and current, urban and tourist)
- Computer with Internet access

## Preparation



- **Organise your group:** each group should have four to five members.
- **Choice of city:** the photos of Rome below are here to help you get an idea of the task. We recommend you choose a European city that has a long history and well-conserved historical buildings (for example, Paris, Moscow, London, Prague, Florence or Istanbul). You can also choose your own city or one nearby.



Aerial view of Rome

- **Organisation and distribution of work:** after choosing the city, before you begin you should divide up the work between the members of the group to avoid duplicating, missing key pieces of the task or otherwise wasting time.



The Vatican and the Tiber

## Procedure



Collect the information and materials you need. As well as using the Internet, if you are researching your own city it would be a good idea to visit a tourist information centre or the city council to obtain information.

- **Historical:** you need to look for information about the main periods of development in the city's history in order to appreciate the impact of the past and the changes that have occurred.
- **Maps and plans:** you need a set of plans (general, historical/artistic, tourist) and aerial or satellite photos of the city and of any important suburbs.
- **Photos:** you need photos of the main monuments, views or models of the city, photos of unique buildings, streets, squares and parks, as well as of elements that explain the site of the city, such as rivers, hills and ports.



# Final task



Interpret the city's layout, including these aspects.

- **Location:** the site of the city and its situation.
- **Type of layout:** orthogonal grid, circular or irregular.
- **Historical development:** the city's origin and the main stages of its historical development, including the historical city centre, original suburbs (*ensanche*), newer suburbs, squares and gardens.
- **Current situation:** you should highlight these aspects.
  - Heritage: historical, artistic, natural and cultural.
  - Diversity of suburbs and functions: historical city centre, residential areas, commercial, business and industrial areas.
- **Final conclusions:** summarise the information, highlighting the characteristics that define the city.

## Communication and publication



Your group will present your city to the rest of the class. You should project a plan of the city so that your classmates can see it during your presentation.

Use slideshow software to prepare a presentation with no more than 20 slides, following the steps outlined in the task.

Finally your group should answer any questions asked by your classmates.



Weblink:

<http://inicia.oupe.es/geo2ebi0301w>



Tourist city plan of Rome

## SELF-ASSESSMENT



1. What are the uses of a city plan?
2. What elements of a city tell us about its past?
3. Which area of the city would you choose to live in? Why?
4. What sources did you use to help you interpret your city's layout?
5. List the problems that you came across when you were researching your city.
6. What were the most difficult parts of this task?
7. Which of the cities presented by your classmates did you like the most?
8. How did you organise the work in your group? What was your contribution?