

# CGC1P Unit 3: People, Places and Patterns

## Activity 5: Urbanization

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### Overview

Just like today, centuries ago some people farmed and others lived in towns. Towns developed based on the needs of the people in the area. Canada's distribution of towns and cities is based on the geographical location, the availability of resources, and transportation routes. In this activity the student will identify and explain the regional patterns of urbanization across Canada.

### Lesson

Just like today, centuries ago some people farmed and others lived in towns. Towns developed based on the needs of the people in the area. Perhaps people concentrated in a central location for reasons like transportation, resources, or the trading of goods.

#### *The Urban Hierarchy*

Urban centers are ranked according to size.

**HAMLET** ..... ► **VILLAGE** ..... ► **TOWN** ..... ► **CITY**

..... ► The smallest is a hamlet, which is about 8 to 10 buildings.

..... ► A village has from 200 to 800 people living in it.

..... ► For an urban center to be a town, it would have from about 1000 to 10,000 people living in it.

..... ► A city has over 10,000 people in it.

One huge urban area of several cities grown together is called a megalopolis. There is only one megalopolis in Canada, which is Toronto and the surrounding cities.

When there is no rural area between cities and the neighboring communities, it is called a **Census Metropolitan Area**, or CMA. An example of a CMA is Ottawa and the cities, towns, and villages surrounding it.

#### *Low Order and High Order Goods*

Cities are sometimes the only places you can buy **high-order goods**. For example, fewer people living in rural settings own computers.

**Low order goods** can be bought anywhere. Bread and milk are good examples of low-order goods. A hamlet with one store, one church, and a few houses will almost certainly sell low-order goods like bread, milk, soft drinks, and potato chips.

## ***The Difference Between Rural and Urban***

Hamlets and villages have a population of under 1,000 people, so they are considered rural. They have low-order goods available for sale. Low-order goods are usually sold at low prices.

Towns and cities have over 1,000 people, and they are considered urban. They also have low-order goods available. Large urban centers like cities are the only places likely to have high-order goods available for sale. High price tag items like cars are examples of high-order goods. As always, there are exceptions to this definition.

## ***Urbanization***

The movement of people from rural to urban settings is called urbanization. Urbanization has changed Canada, since over two-thirds of the Canadian population lives in urban Canada.

Why are people pulled to the cities? Some reasons include:

- more opportunity and variety jobs in the city
- more cultural events, culture, and more services available in larger urban areas such as shopping, medical, and educational services.

Why would people immigrating to Canada move to the city? There are several **pull factors** that make cities attractive to an immigrant:

**cultural diversity:** big cities may seem more desirable, with many ethnic groups already living there.

**jobs:** more jobs are available in large urban centers.

**language:** many languages are spoken in cities and immigrants are likely to feel more comfortable with others who speak the same language.

**relatives:** immigrants prefer to be near relatives who have already come to Canada, and most of the population lives in cities.

There are a variety of services available in larger urban areas that may not be available in smaller urban areas or rural areas. There are also more recreational activities, like going to the movies or skateboarding.

Rural Canada offers many different attractions: activities like fairs, a close-knit community atmosphere, and peaceful solitude. Which type of community would you prefer to live in?

## ***Population Densities***

There are over 31 million people living in Canada now. Do they live spread out evenly across Canada? No, many more people are concentrated in cities than in rural areas.

When geographers compare the population density of one area to another, they use average densities. To get the average population density of Canada, you divide the number of people (31 000 000) by the area of Canada (10 000 000 square kilometers). The population density of Canada is 3.1 people per square kilometer.

# Assignment

1. Match the word with the appropriate definition:

rural	-a pastoral or agricultural area that does not include settlements of 1000 people or more
urban	-areas, including cities or towns, that have more than 1000 people
urban hierarchy	-the smallest kind of settlement, with about eight to ten buildings
hamlet	-a small settlement of about 200 to 800 people.
village	-a ranking of communities by size, from the smallest (a hamlet) to the largest (a city)
town	-a community of more than 1000 people and less than 10 000
city	-an urban center with 10 000 or more people
megalopolis	-an urban area of over 100 000 people, including all villages, towns, and smaller cities near a major urban center, with no rural area between them
Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	-the process by which an area becomes urban
urbanization	-to move from one country or region and settle in another
migrated	-a group of cities that have expanded until they touch each other
culture	-the beliefs, traditions, attitudes, and way of life shared by a people, OR the arts, entertainment and media
pull factors	-people sharing social or cultural identity based on particular languages, homelands, religions, and/or sets of customs
immigrant	-a person who comes to a new country to live there permanently
ethnic group	-factors that attract, or pull, immigrants to move to a country or region
high order goods	-a product sold almost anywhere
low-order good	-high priced products or services that are purchased infrequently, usually found in large urban centers, like cities
population density	-the area of a nation in square kilometers, divided by the total population

2. Give three reasons why people would move to a city.
3. Why are hamlets and villages considered rural and towns and cities considered urban?
4. In a megalopolis, several cities have grown together to form one huge urban area. Where has this happened in Canada?
5. The population density of Canada is 3.1 people per square kilometer. How is the population density calculated?
6. Sort the following into high order and low order products and goods:

Piano   batteries   bread   laptop computer   milk   Jacuzzi  
 puzzle   books   Nike shoes   ballet tickets   medical specialist

High Order Products and Goods	Low Order Products and Goods